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Daily Report
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Japan

U.S. Construction 'Threat' Cancellation Urged

OW2710060393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0538 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 27 KYODO—Construction Minister Kozo Igarashi on Wednesday [27 October] urged the United States to stop considering trade sanctions against Japan over U.S. access to Japan's public works projects.

Igarashi told reporters about the U.S. decision Tuesday to set a new deadline of January 20 and waive a previous November 1 deadline for such sanctions. "I believe the decision represents the U.S. understanding of our efforts to improve the bidding process and a system for contracts," Igarashi said. "But the U.S. threat of unilateral sanctions itself is regrettable, so they should be canceled."

The Japanese Government announced Tuesday "an action program" to widen foreign access to Japan's public works projects.

Washington had threatened to curb Japanese participation in U.S. public works projects unless Tokyo agreed to open tenders for its public projects by November 1.

Igarashi said Japan will be negotiating with the U.S. on clear standards, guidelines and criteria Tokyo promised in its action program to improve foreign access to public works projects. But Igarashi said that would not be a topic when Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa meets U.S. President Bill Clinton in Seattle in mid-November at a meeting of the Asia-Pacific economic cooperation forum.

Sanctions Postponement Welcomed

OW2710033093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0319 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 27 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on Wednesday [27 October] welcomed a U.S. decision to postpone trade sanctions against Japan over a bilateral construction market dispute. "It was a wise judgment by the United States," Hosokawa told reporters at his official residence.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura said that Tuesday's postponement by U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor of the November 1 deadline for sanctions against Japan until January 20 was "a very appropriate reaction" to Japan's decision to open its construction market more to foreign firms. The top government spokesman told a news conference the government would formulate specific plans to ease foreign access to the Japanese construction market by early next year.

A government source said earlier Wednesday that the construction dispute between the United States and Japan will eventually be settled because a rough outline of the future course had been set.

Washington extended the deadline for retaliatory actions on Tuesday after Tokyo announced an outline of plans to improve the public works bidding system to make it easier for foreign companies to compete.

Based on the outline, Japan will compile an "action program" by the beginning of next year after an advisory panel to the construction minister draws up recommendations in December, officials said.

One-Half of Normal Level of Rice Said Collected

OW2610064393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0629 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 26 KYODO—About two million tons of rice for distribution under government control have been collected as of Saturday, about half the normal level for the time of year, the Farm Ministry reported Tuesday [26 October].

Officials at the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry blamed the slow pace of rice collection on this year's poor rice crop, the worst in the period since World War II. It is apparently impossible to achieve the ministry's initial target of collecting four million tons of government-controlled rice by the end of October.

Under its rice supply and demand program compiled last March, the food agency called for collection of 2.42 million tons of 1993 crop rice for direct distribution by the government and 4.58 million tons more for marketing through government-approved private channels.

Food Security Policy Called 'Unrealistic'

OW2710125493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1235 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 27 KYODO—A senior Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday [27 October] Japan's food security policy which prohibits rice imports is unrealistic.

The official, who declined to be identified by name, told reporters the policy is unrealistic in light of the present situation where plenty of food is available at supermarkets despite a low self-sufficiency rate for food supplies, which stands at 30 percent. For instance, the official said Japan can import wheat from various countries such as the United States, China and Australia.

Russia Seeks Nuclear Power Plant Investments

OW2710060793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0532 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 27 KYODO—Russian Atomic Energy Minister V.N. Mikhaylov on Wednesday [27 October] urged Japan's nuclear power industry to assist Russia's own nuclear power development program, particularly in eastern Siberia.

Mikhaylov said Russia plans to construct more nuclear power plants in eastern Siberia to cope with a looming

energy shortage in the region. He told a seminar at a Tokyo hotel on nuclear safety in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe that geological surveys have already begun in response to Russian President Boris Yeltsin's request that his ministry construct the nuclear power plants.

Mikhaylov said Russia wants to boost its power output twofold from the present level by 2010. But Mikhaylov said Russia is suffering a shortage of finance, both to maintain its present nuclear power facilities and to build new ones.

"We would like to solicit your commercial-base cooperation," Mikhaylov told the mostly Japanese power industry sector audience.

Mikhaylov said Russia is spending 150 million dollars annually to upgrade its nuclear plants and improve their safety, but he said a more complete and immediate overhaul would require 250-300 million dollars annually. "I would like to emphasize that nuclear power is the energy of the 21 century and it is necessary to have cooperation from the rest of the world," he said.

Hokkaido-Sakhalin Commercial Ferry Line Studied

OW2610081493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0752 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 26 KYODO—Japanese and Russian shipping companies have agreed to study setting up regular commercial ferry services between Japan's northern island of Hokkaido and Sakhalin, which is Russian territory, Transport Minister Shigeru Ito said Tuesday [26 October]. The companies agreed to consider establishing a commercial service and will discuss the results of their study at a meeting to be held in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk next March.

Discussions between six Japanese and two Russian shipping companies began in May 1991 to consider establishing a range of services between the Japanese ports of Niigata, on the Japan Sea coast, and Otaru in Hokkaido and the Russian ports of Vladivostok, Vanino and Korsakov on Sakhalin.

During their discussions, the companies acknowledged that poor economic conditions limit the profitability of the venture. The proposed Hokkaido-Sakhalin service is only tentative.

Both sides also agreed to end services that opened this summer between Vladivostok and Japanese ports at Niigata, Toyama and Hokkaido, should they agree on a Hokkaido-Sakhalin route.

Hosokawa: Need for Cultural Exchanges With PRC

OW2710095393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0938 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 27 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Wednesday [27 October] that Japan needs to promote exchanges with China not only politically and economically but also culturally, a Foreign Ministry official said.

The premier made the comment when he met Chinese Culture Minister Liu Zhongde at his official residence. Liu, the first Chinese minister to visit Japan since Hosokawa took office in August, said he was glad to hear the Japanese leader's remark on bilateral cultural exchanges, the official said.

Hosokawa reportedly told the Chinese Culture Minister he looks forward to seeing Chinese Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin in Seattle when leaders of the member states of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum get together on November 19-20.

Liu, who arrived in Japan on Wednesday, also called on Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata and Education Minister Ryoko Akamatsu. He will leave Tokyo for home on Thursday.

Hata: Tokyo Should Take International Initiative

OW2710080793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0745 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 27 KYODO—Japan should be making diplomatic initiatives on the world stage instead of just following those of other nations, Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata said Wednesday [27 October]. Speaking at a luncheon meeting of the Research Institute of Japan, Hata also indicated Japan's willingness for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, saying the world body should be reformed to meet "new needs."

"Rather than waiting for other countries' initiatives, Japan should actively make proposals based on the knowledge it has accumulated through peace and prosperity" to help solve regional conflicts, Hata said.

Japan should offer a helping hand using such know-how rather than force to bring peace in countries, he said, citing Japan's successful role in UN peacekeeping operations in Cambodia.

Hata told the meeting's some 1,500 participants the United Nations has an increasingly greater role now the Cold War is over. He said although there are 184 member countries, only five are permanent members of the Security Council.

The UN and the Security Council must reform their functions to be able to meet the new needs, he said, adding Japan should "speak up in various positions."

Touching on North Korea, Hata said it is important that Pyongyang join the international community and hold frank discussions with other countries to secure safety in Asia.

On domestic politics, Hata, who is also deputy prime minister in the coalition government, predicted that two large, stable forces would be created.

Ozawa Excludes Two Reporters From Briefing

OW2610171493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1333 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 26 KYODO—Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) co-leader Ichiro Ozawa's excluding reporters of two national dailies from his press briefings Monday [25 October] has sparked fierce debate among Japanese journalists.

Ozawa said at a press meeting Monday, "No matter how much I explained, they didn't get the point. And they didn't ask me for my comment before putting their stories in newspapers."

He added, "It means they need not hear my views, so I asked them to refrain from attending my press conferences." However, many Japanese reporters have reacted angrily to Ozawa's remarks.

Saying the coverage of the two dailies—the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN and the SANKEI SHIMBUN—was accurate, they said they feel uncomfortable that Ozawa, regarded as one of the most powerful political figures, views his press conferences as a service for the press rather than his duty as a politician to spread his views to the public.

Even if their newspapers turn out to be carrying incorrect reports, that is an insufficient reason to prohibit reporters from attending news conferences, they said.

"Generally speaking, there are various types of press meetings," said Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura on Tuesday, referring to Ozawa's decision.

Noting that his regular news conferences are intended to make known to the nation and the rest of the world the government's stance and views on a number of issues, Takemura said individual politicians depend on the public for support and therefore should try actively to convey their messages to the public.

Takemura, the top government spokesman, routinely meets the press at Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's official residence twice a day on weekdays and gives background news briefings exclusively to a group of reporters who closely watch his moves every day.

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Secretary General Yoshiro Mori said Tuesday he favors politicians' close contacts with the press through news conferences to convey their ideas and opinions to the public.

Ozawa, a former LDP secretary general who bolted from the LDP with dozens of lawmakers to form Shinseito in June and was instrumental in ousting the LDP from power after the July general election, has scrapped all secretive get-togethers with reporters monitoring his daily activities and has only met the press at news conferences open to all media since August.

Many reporters feel this new practice is designed to limit access to Ozawa and makes it difficult for reporters to follow his daily activities.

Shinseito is a key force within the governing coalition headed by Hosokawa, which in August dislodged the LDP from power after a 38-year monopoly on government.

Meanwhile, at a press briefing Tuesday Ozawa rejected demands by reporters from other news companies not to exclude NIHON KEIZAI and SANKEI reporters from his news conferences.

One reporter protested that Ozawa's action may lead to press censorship. "If everybody has an opinion like that, I will quit (press) conferences. I do not hold them at my request," he said.

"Conferences are my service for you, not my duty. You do not have to attend the conferences if you write things that are different from the facts," he said.

Journalists Protest Ozawa's Ban

OW2710134193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1310 GMT 27 Oct 93

[By Takehiko Kajita]

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 27 KYODO—A group of journalists lodged a protest Wednesday [27 October] against powerful politician Ichiro Ozawa for excluding reporters of two national newspapers from his press briefings.

Reporters on the Ozawa beat criticized the ban in a statement submitted to the office of the senior leader of ruling coalition member Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party).

Ozawa, a former secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), barred reporters of the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN and the SANKEI SHIMBUN from his briefings Monday and Tuesday, saying their coverage of him has been inaccurate.

Ozawa, who masterminded the ousting of the LDP from power in August after a 38-year lock on government, reasoned that reporters from the two papers need not attend his press conferences as they have neglected to check facts and published incorrect reports.

Many political reporters appear uncomfortable not only with Ozawa's action but also his remarks that he views his news conferences as "a service for the press" rather than a duty to the public. They say even if their news reports turn out to be incorrect, it is an insufficient

reason to bar them from attending press conferences because the news gatherings are first and foremost to make the public aware of politicians' views.

The journalists from 16 major news organizations, including KYODO NEWS SERVICE, said in the statement that Ozawa's action runs counter to his policy of opening his press conferences to all media, a rare practice in Japanese journalism, where outsiders have been denied access. In August, Ozawa scrapped all secretive get-togethers with selected reporters monitoring his daily activities and has been meeting the press only at open news conferences.

Some reporters complain the new practice limits access to Ozawa and makes it difficult for them to follow his movements.

While acknowledging the necessity for news briefings, Ozawa has said it is wrong for the press to expect him to automatically appear before reporters to fulfill his duty as a politician. He has seemingly failed to win support for this philosophy with coalition colleagues.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Wednesday he does not regard press conferences as a service for the press but as an important obligation. Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura also voiced doubt Tuesday about Ozawa's view, saying individual politicians depend on the public for support and therefore should try actively to convey their messages to the people.

Broadcasting Officials To Resign Over Charge

OW2610165693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1442 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 26 KYODO—All three vice chairmen of Japan's broadcasters' association will follow the chairman's lead and resign their posts in connection with TV ASAHI's allegedly biased coverage of the July House of Representatives election, broadcasting industry sources said Tuesday [26 October].

Shigetaka Isaka, president of Sapporo Television Broadcasting Co., Kazuo Takahashi, director and counselor of Chubu-Nippon Broadcasting Co. and Shichiro Murakami, president of Kansai Telecasting Corp., will all quit as vice chairmen of the National Association of Commercial Broadcasters, they said. The three will formally resign after the association holds an extraordinary general assembly November 19 to decide on a successor for Koichiro Kuwata, who resigned as chairman of the group October 19, the sources said.

The action will be taken in order to assume responsibility for the election coverage confusion that has apparently caused distrust of broadcasting among the public, they said.

Sadayoshi Tsubaki, former managing director and news bureau chief of ASAHI National Broadcasting Co., said at a meeting of the association September 21 that he told his staff prior to the July poll to counter the reelection of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), then the ruling party.

Testifying before the Diet on Monday, Tsubaki denied ordering his network journalists to produce news programs that would help oust the LDP from power in the run-up to the general election. However, Tsubaki acknowledged that he had made a remark implying that the network's coverage of the election was aimed at bringing in a non-LDP government.

Mieno Views 'Prolonged' Economic Stagnation

OW2710082793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0805 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 27 KYODO—Prospects for an economic recovery by the end of the current fiscal year next March have receded, Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno said Wednesday [27 October]. The central bank has not completely given up its "recovery scenario," but the risk of a further downturn has increased, Mieno said, citing prolonged stagnation in personal spending and corporate capital spending.

The BOJ has repeatedly said that a moderate economic recovery will begin taking place by the end of the current fiscal year. "The basic logic for the scenario has not been changed," Mieno told a news conference at the end of a three-day meeting of BOJ branch managers that began in Tokyo on Monday.

The probability of an economic pickup within the second half has diminished, Mieno said. He declined to specify exactly when a recovery would begin. Mieno said it would take place when ongoing factors such as the BOJ's easier credit policy and the government's series of fiscal stimulus packages would overwhelm negative influences like the strong yen, unseasonable weather and a credit crunch among banks.

The BOJ will keep close tabs on the cumulative effects of the positive factors, he said.

Quoting from among 33 branch managers and three overseas representative office chiefs, Mieno said the economy has grown more sluggish, eroding corporate sentiment further. Many managers were concerned about continued corporate production changes and stalled inventory adjustment, Mieno said.

They also cited an increased shift in output to overseas under the heavy weight of the yen's rapid appreciation against the dollar, Mieno said. Under these circumstances, the price competitiveness of exports has deteriorated, dragging down export activity, the governor said.

Mieno said prospects for an early recovery have been clouded by the erosion of exports.

Conditions surrounding the labor market have become more severe, the governor said, citing spreading work force cuts, mainly among manufacturers.

But he quickly added the ongoing moves are unlikely to lead to "drastic labor adjustment." The current changes are mostly temporary layoffs, job relocations, transfers to affiliated firms and cuts in part-timers, while small nonmanufacturers are still suffering a labor shortage, he said.

Mieno acknowledged banks' lending, except to blue-chip companies, remains "cautious," as indicated by a still slow growth of money supply. He explained corporate fund demand is not "forward-looking" under the heavy load of the economic slump.

Banks are also more cautious about boosting loan exposures, reflecting their fear of a possible resurgence of credit risks seen after the burst of the late 1980s' "bubble" economy, Mieno said. He stressed the importance of banks' making further restructuring efforts, particularly liquidation of nonperforming loans, as a way to regain financial health.

Mieno said ensuring price stability and deregulation will play a major role in achieving sustainable economic growth without inflation. Income tax cuts would help shore up the economy, he said, but a national consensus should be formed before carrying them out.

Fujii Says Stock Market Slide 'Short-Term'

OW2710095893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0946 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 27 KYODO—Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii brushed off a two-day stock market slide Wednesday [27 October], calling it a "short-term" reaction to a major new stock offering.

The Tokyo Stock Exchange's drop below 20,000 on a key index in the wake of Tuesday's listing of shares in East Japan Railway Co. (JR East) is "part of a short-term movement," Fujii told a regular press conference.

JR East's initial surge reflected the market's judgment of the company's business prospects, he said, maintaining his view that the JR East listing is not overheated. The stock was vastly oversubscribed and orders overloaded the exchange's computers, forcing a temporary suspension of JR East trading at the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

JR East stock, which had an initial offering price of 380,000 yen, surged Tuesday to 600,000 yen, with trades unable to be completed until after the exchange closed. The JR East stock receded to 589,000 yen at the Nagoya Stock Exchange on Wednesday.

But the benchmark Nikkei stock average fell both days by a combined 370.55 points to 19,838.78.

Fujii also said he might ask three government ministries to cooperate more fully with government efforts to reform what is seen as a rigid budget allocation system.

A Finance Ministry spokesman said Tuesday that officials of the Construction, Transport and Farm Ministries "sounded defensive" in a hearing on efforts to review the system of dealing with ministry requests on public works projects.

Fujii said, "we might have to ask them" to soften their apparent reluctance "depending on the development of the situation."

Asked his opinion on a panel's draft recommendation to streamline national government ministries, Fujii said that is one option for administrative reform.

Hata Supports Early Tax Balance Correction

OW2710102193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1006 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 27 KYODO—Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata Wednesday [27 October] stressed the need to correct the balance between direct and indirect taxes as soon as possible. The former finance minister said in a speech that public works spending and official discount rate reductions are not sufficient for pumping up the economy.

Hata's remarks are believed to be an exhortation for cutting income taxes. Direct taxes account for almost 70 percent of the government tax revenue.

EPA Head Hints at Scaling Down Growth Target

OW2710120693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1142 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 27 KYODO—Economic Planning Agency [EPA] Director General Manae Kubota suggested Wednesday [27 October] Japan would have difficulty achieving its official 3.3 percent economic growth target in fiscal 1993.

Kubota, speaking at a special committee of the House of Representatives, said the government may review the target after seeing the real gross national product (GNP) for the July-September quarter. However, she went on to say she is not optimistic about the figures for that quarter, given the effects of the yen's appreciation against the dollar and the bad summer weather.

Meanwhile, government spokesman Masayoshi Takemura said Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's administration is planning to compile this year's second supplementary budget around November 20 and submit it to the Diet as soon as possible.

Many private think tanks are projecting minus growth for the current fiscal year, which ends in March.

NKK To Cut Executive Salaries, Winter Bonuses

OW2610083593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0803 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 26 KYODO—Leading Japanese steelmaker NKK Corp. will step up cost-cutting measures from November to offset the economic slump by

extending a reduction in managerial personnel's working hours to the head office and slashing allowances for executives, company officials said Tuesday [26 October].

NKK's decision to cut the working hours of managerial staff at the company's head office follows a similar measure introduced at its two major production facilities in Kanagawa and Hiroshima Prefectures earlier this month. The company will cut year-end bonuses for about 5,600 managerial personnel by an average 5 percent from the midterm level, the officials said.

It is an unusual step for the steel industry where managers are normally paid the same bonus in summer and winter. The company said executives' salaries, which have been cut by an average 10 percent since October last year, will be slashed further to an average 15 percent cut from November .

NKK expects to save about 500 million yen in personnel costs from the bonus and salary cuts, the officials said.

North Korea

Kim Yong-sam's Policy Speech Criticized

SK2710110793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Commentary by Kim Kyong-pok: "A Charlatan's Brazen-faced Jargon"]

[Text] The South Korean ruler Kim Yong-sam delivered a so-called policy speech at the National Assembly on 25 October. Listening to his speech, we are reminded of the saying: The crow, no matter how many times it sings, can utter nothing but caw.

In his speech he brought up again the so-called suspicion of the North's nuclear weapons development, and distorted the fact as if we were responsible for the lack of progress in North-South relations. He tried to justify their maneuvers to build up arms by shifting the blame on us. He tried to mock the South Korean people with the issue of displaced families.

Who is to blame for the lack of progress in North-South relations? Kim Yong-sam's allegation that it is attributable to the suspicion of the North's nuclear development stressing that the North's development of nuclear weapons should be stopped under any circumstances was a preposterous, malicious fault-finding.

We have neither nuclear weapons nor the will or the ability to develop them. This has already been clearly confirmed and proven. They have turned South Korea into a largest nuclear weapons arsenal in the Far East and are accelerating their own development of nuclear weapons at a final stage. Putting away this crime they have committed, they made an issue of our nonexistent nuclear program. This is really a shameless act.

Despite our sincere efforts to resolve the important issues of the nation, including the denuclearization issue through the exchange of the North and South highest leaders' special envoys which we proposed, no progress has been made in North-South relations. Blame for this should be placed on Kim Yong-sam, who, under the cloak of a civilian regime, led North-South relations toward confrontation, aggravating tension.

Since it was launched, the Kim Yong-sam regime has repeatedly conducted the provocative war exercises holding a dagger against the comrade [tongji] who is willing to shake hands for dialogue. They are planning to conduct another nuclear war exercise called Toksuri from the end of October until early November. They are perpetrating all sorts of maneuvers to harm fellow countrymen in collusion with foreign forces. Kim Yong-sam himself raved that he will intensify the international mutual assistance system. Those who are desperately persisting in the dialogue-negating nuclear war exercises and the international mutual assistance system, putting the brake on the exchange of special envoys and artificially straining tensions, are trying to shift the blame onto us. This is like the thief turning on the owner.

The South Korean regime itself stressed the need for securing the stable national defense budget to maintain the security posture, babbling about the North's provocation. The South Korean ruling bunch, babbling about the experience of the Persian Gulf war and the trend of modern warfare, is staging a game of reform in the puppet armed forces, accelerating arms buildup, putting enormous funds into it. It is extremely bellicose act of stepping up the preparation of war of northward invasion aimed at achieving the country's reunification not by peaceful means but by means of war, by defeating communism.

The Kim Yong-sam regime should be held responsible by the entire nation for the consequences of this reckless war policy.

The South Korean ruler mentioned the issue of displaced families. That publicity does not conform to their practice of seeking confrontation and war. We can hardly think it was prompted by the true desire to relieve the displaced families of their pain and suffering.

The problem that should be solved as a top priority in the issue of displaced families is the repatriation of old men Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan, long-term prisoners, the unconverted prisoners of war. Old men Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan are prisoners of war who were taken prisoner during the last war. They should have been repatriated to the North when the prisoners were exchanged immediately after the armistice.

Despite this, they were illegally detained by the South Korean authorities, forced upon the painful life of imprisonment for over 30 years because they refused to convert ideologically. Since their release, they have been leading a life of most miserable plight in despair without anyone looking after them.

The Red Cross Society of our Republic regards realizing their hope to return home to their families as soon as possible as a humanitarian issue that cannot be postponed any longer, and proposed the problem to the South Korean Red Cross and the International Red Cross Committee.

No matter how the South Korean ruler may babble about the pain of displaced families, people will take it as deception if he turns away from solving this problem. In a word, the so-called policy speech by Kim Yong-sam was wrought with the tactics designed to deceive and mock the people, shifting the blame onto others and justifying his treacherous acts with sophism.

Those who have sense will know from the speech that they have nothing to expect from him. If the present South Korean ruler continues to follow the road of confrontation and war against the nation's aspiration, he will never meet with good results.

Newspapers Comment on Speech

SK2710114593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 27 Oct 93

["Papers on Shameless Sophism of South Korean Ruler"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, October 27 (KCNA)—The South Korean ruler, Kim Yong-sam, in his "policy speech" Monday [25 October] charged the North with the "nuclear problem" again. Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON in their commentaries today brand this as an open challenge to the North's earnest and sincere efforts for reconciliation, unity and dialogue and a criminal act against the fellow countrymen's desire for peaceful reunification.

A NODONG SINMUN analyst says:

As far as the nuclear problem of the Korean peninsula is concerned, it is attributable not to the North but to the deployment of foreign nuclear arms in South Korea, which pose a threat to the North, and the hastened development of nuclear weapons by the South Korean successive rulers in top secrecy.

The South Korean rulers are the very ones who have created a nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula. So, they are not in a position to talk about the North's "nuclear problem".

The South Korean chief executive called for "a full-security posture" and arms buildup that day, crying over the North's possible provocation. This was, in essence, a bellicose outburst revealing his intention to step up the preparations for a nuclear war against the North and achieve "unification by prevailing over communism" by means of war.

Kim Yong-sam in his "policy speech" driveled about the "phased solution of the problem of separated families" and brought forward the "establishment of a center of the meeting of separated families". But, this was a hypocritical act to conceal his true color as an anti-reunification element by trifling with the fellow countrymen's desire for reunification with the humanitarian question.

It is only too natural a thing which brooks not a moment's delay either from the humanitarian point of view or from the compatriotic viewpoint to send back old men Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan, long-term prisoners who have refused to be converted, to the North where their families and relatives live to lessen their sufferings and pains quickly and let them live an easy life in their later years.

A MINJU CHOSON analyst warns that if the Kim Yong-sam "regime" under "civilian" veil bring irrevocable consequences to the nation, continuously seeking war, not peace of the country, and confrontation, not reconciliation between the North and the South, it will be held wholly responsible for it.

KCNA Reports South Korean Defects to North

SK2710112093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1050 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 27 (KCNA)—Sin Tong-yul, 30, a business executive of the Taejon Foodstuffs Co., Ltd. of South Korea, defected to the northern half of the country, taking along his six-month-old son, Sin Hye-song.

Born in Poyong County, South Chungchong Province, Sin Tong-yul graduated from a high school before serving in the puppet army and, after demobilization, eked out a living on various jobs in Seoul and Taejon.

He has his parents and brothers in South Korea.

Explaining the motive of his defection, he said that the politics of the present "civilian government" of South Korea disillusioned him about South Korean society.

"When I talked with Koreans abroad, I could learn more about the anthropocentric society in the North where all people live an equal life under the outstanding guidance of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il and at last I made up my mind to come over to the North," he said.

Daily Comments on 'Forged' UN Letter

SK2710113293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026 GMT 27 Oct 93

["Hostile Attitude Towards DPRK Revealed"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, October 27 (KCNA)—The case of the forgery of a "letter" of the United Nations secretary-general at the 37th General Assembly of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was a criminal act grossly infringing upon the sovereignty and dignity of the

Democratic People's Republic of Korea, charges NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article Wednesday.

It says:

Some time ago the impure quarters of the IAEA forged a "letter" of the UN secretary-general, in which they did not use the official name of our country. Furthermore, they tried to do harm to the DPRK, taking issue with the nuclear problem. This was a graphic revelation of their hostile attitude towards the DPRK.

The forgers of the "letter" gravely violated the sovereignty of the DPRK and attempted to isolate it in the international community by attacking it over the nuclear problem at the 37th general assembly of the IAEA.

But this attempt of theirs is as foolish as trying to hide the sun with a palm.

Officials of the UN Secretariat are also to blame for the case.

The "letter" abusing the name of the UN secretary-general was forged and our country was called by a name getting on our nerve, something (?uncanny) in the history of the United Nations, because some imprudent officials of the UN Secretariat acted upon the scenario of the impure quarters of the IAEA Secretariat, playing into their hands, ignorant of the background and the truth of the origin of the nuclear problem of the Korean peninsula.

Some quarters of the UN Secretariat should have shown the "letter" to the IAEA general assembly to the UN secretary-general, the addresser, and got his signature. But they arbitrarily sent it to the IAEA general assembly without showing it to the UN secretary- general and a competent department on purpose in order to conceal the content of it unreasonably calling the DPRK by name.

The UN Secretariat, mindful that the case is a serious matter concerning the international community as a whole, the Third World countries in particular, must punish those responsible and take measures to prevent the recurrence of such crime.

Foreign Groups Condemn UN Letter

SK2610052793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0441 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 26 (KCNA)—Indian and Nepalese organisations in statements condemned with bitter indignation some quarters of the U.N. Secretariat and the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for conspiring with each other in the illegal and immoral fabrication of a "letter" without the consent and signature of the U.N. secretary-general for the purpose of stifling the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The all India Indo-Korean Friendship Association and the Indian Committee for Supporting Korea's Reunification in a statement said the nuclear problem of the Korean peninsula can be fully solved only through dialogue and negotiations between the DPRK and the United States. They strongly demanded that the U.N. and the IAEA take precautions against the repeat of the political plot for libeling authority of the international organisation and pay due attention to it.

The Nepal-Korea Friendship Association and the Nepalese Committee for Supporting Korea's Reunification in a joint statement noted that the IAEA lost its impartiality and principle through the recent fabrication case and was divested of specified duty to have talks with the DPRK on the nuclear problem, stressing that the nuclear problem of the Korean peninsula can be settled only through talks between the DPRK and the United States, the party responsible for it.

Foreign Party Leaders Greet Kim Chong-il

SK2710074393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0410 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 27 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages of greetings from foreign party leaders on the occasion of the 48th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK].

The messages came from Blasco Hugo Fernandes, chairman of the National Direction Committee of the Democratic Intervention of Portugal; Ludo Martens, chairman of the Central Committee of the Belgian Labour Party; Youssef Amin Wali, general secretary of the Egyptian National Democratic Party; Chairman Vassos Lyssarides and Secretary General Yiannakis Omirou of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Cyprus; T. Anenih, national chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Nigeria; Amadou El Becir Gologo, secretary general of the National Direction Committee of the Sudanese Union-African Democratic Rally in Mali; Mohamedoun Dicko, secretary general of the Executive Committee of the African Party for the Solidarity and Justice of Mali; Alvaro Vasquez del Real, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Colombia; Gustavo Mohme Ryona, national secretary general of the Socialist Political Action Party of Peru; Guillermo Garcia Ponce, general secretary of the "New Alternative" of Venezuela; Victor Sanchez Villagra, chairman of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party of Paraguay; and Jorge Ibanez, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Bolivian Communist Party.

The messages say that the Workers' Party of Korea continues to make a victorious advance, upholding the banner of socialism and achieving great successes under the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

They express the belief that the friendly relations between the WPK and those parties will further strengthen and develop in the future.

They wish Comrade Kim Chong-il a long life in good health.

Yi In-mo Meets Visiting Youth League Officials

SK2610050793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 26 (KCNA)—Incarnation of faith and will, Yi In-mo, and officials of the League of Korean Youth in Japan under the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) from Osaka who are visiting the socialist homeland met in Pyongyang Monday.

Recalling that he was subjected to all manner of appeasement and deception, persecution and brutal tortures by the enemy in South Korea, Yi In-mo said that revolutionaries are not afraid of any scaffold or an isolated island, if they have grim resolution to devote their lives to the party and the leader.

He said he felt through his own experience that the great leader President Kim Il-song, our party and my land of socialism are the best in the world. "All the Koreans overseas must be firmly determined to devote their lives to the struggle for the socialist homeland of chuche over which the bright sun and star shine, till the day when the historical cause of national reunification will have been achieved," he said.

Officials of the League of Korean Youth in Japan said that the indomitable fighting spirit displayed by Yi inspired them greatly. They expressed their firm determination to staunchly struggle for national reunification and the development and prosperity of the country, deeply cherishing the honor and pride of their being young people of chuche Korea.

Those present loudly sang the song "No Motherland Without You".

The officials of the League of Korean Youth in Japan presented a souvenir to Yi In-mo.

Hwang Chong-yop Meets Congolese, Malian Visitors

SK2510225693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1516 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 25 (KCNA)—Secretary Hwang Chong-yop of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea today met and had a friendly talk with Tamba Tamba Victor, secretary of the National Council of the Pan-African Union for Social Democracy of the Congo.

The Congolese guest expressed his hope that the two parties would pool their strength and advance for common victory, saying that the complex situation demands further strengthening of friendship and cooperation between progressive political parties.

Secretary Hwang Chang-yop also met and had a friendly talk with Issaka Bagayogo, secretary of the Executive Committee of the African Party for the Solidarity and Justice of Mali, today.

Cooperation Accord Signed With Finland

SK2510230693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1519 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 25 (KCNA)—An agreement on cooperation in industrial property was signed in Pyongyang today between the General Bureau of Invention of the DPRK and the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland.

Present at the signing ceremony on the Korean side were Yu Song-kwang, director of the General Bureau of Invention, and other officials concerned and on the opposite side were a Finnish patent cooperation delegation led by Martti Enajarvi, director general of the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland.

A 1993-1995 plan for cooperation between the General Bureau and the National Board was signed on the same day.

Daily Views Leadership Inheritance Question

SK2610111193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030 GMT 26 Oct 93

["To Have Great Leader Is Vital to Accomplishment of Socialist Cause"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, October 26 (KCNA)—The Korean revolution is dynamically advancing along the road of chuche because the question of inheriting leadership has been successfully solved in Korea and the Korean people have an illustrious leader at the head of the party and the revolution, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The paper says that the question of inheriting leadership has been solved successfully in Korea entirely because the Korean people are holding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il at the head of the party, the revolution and the revolutionary Armed Forces.

It quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"As Comrade Kim Chong-il has wisely guided the party, the state and the Army as a whole from long ago, the question of inheritance of leadership has been solved successfully in our country."

Noting that to properly solve the question of inheriting leadership is all the more important at a time when one generation replaces another in the revolution, the paper stresses:

The long history of the international communist movement shows that it is very important to properly ensure the continuity of leadership with the alternation of generation in the revolution.

In some countries the cause of socialism has undergone turns and twists and has suffered temporary setbacks because they failed to properly solve the question at the time when one generation was replaced by another in the revolution.

As a result, the revolution was given up halfway and the line of the revolution came to an end. This bespeaks that a correct solution of this question is vital to the completion of revolution through generations and the destiny of the revolution depends on it.

The working-class party and people must choose as the leader of the people a person who is unfailingly loyal to the party and the revolution, the country and the people and possessed of character and quality for satisfactorily ensuring political leadership over the whole society.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is an outstanding thinker and theoretician, great statesman, military strategist and a true leader of the people boundlessly loyal to the party and the revolution, the country and the people to the question of inheriting leadership has been successfully solved and a steadfast continuity to the military of the revolution ensured in Korea. Also because the leadership system for successfully ensuring the guidance of the dear leader has been thoroughly established.

Our party's leadership system is, in essence, one for advancing our revolution and carrying it to accomplishment by fully implementing the idea of Comrade Kim Chong-il and ensuring his leadership.

As he has guided our party and revolution, a steadfast continuity is given to the vitality of our revolution and the victory of the cause of chuche definitely guaranteed.

With him leading our revolution, it will dynamically advance always along the road of chuche paved by the great leader and victory and glory are in store for Korean-style socialism. This is the unshakable faith and will of the Korean people.

Daily Highlights Kim Chong-il's Leadership

SK2710120893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1047 GMT 27 Oct 93

["Great Leadership in Successfully Carrying Forward Socialist Cause to Accomplishment"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, October 27 (KCNA)—The socialist cause of chuche which has struck its roots in Mt. Paektu is making a vigorous advance, recording brilliant exploits and great victories under the tested leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The article says that dear Comrade Kim Chong-il is a great leader who is leading to a brilliant victory the struggle to carry forward the socialist cause of chuche to accomplishment with his extraordinary leadership ability.

It quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"Comrade Kim Chong-il is wisely leading the revolution and construction with his extraordinary leadership ability".

Recalling that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has performed imperishable exploits in the historical course of carrying forward the socialist cause of chuche to accomplishment, the article says:

Comrade Kim Chong-il set forth the chuche-oriented policy of party building for modelling the whole party on the chuche idea and has successfully carried it out, thus strengthening and developing the party into a tested guide of the socialist cause.

He has tirelessly pushed ahead with the work of imbuing the whole party with one idea, the chuche idea, keeping hold on it as a basic line of party building.

Today, the WPK [Workers Party of Korea] has assumed the appearance of a revolutionary party of chuche in all aspects from its character and ideological system to the unity, organisation and discipline of its ranks, the working method and style and ties with the masses.

Comrade Kim Chong-il has converted the whole of society into a powerful driving force of the revolution firmly united into one socio-political organism and effected a great historical change of transforming the nature and society with its might.

It is his distinguished feat that he has converted the revolutionary ranks into a powerful driving force of the revolution by giving a definite precedence to the ideological revolution and human transformation under the banner of a great theory of ideology and, with its might brought a tremendous socio-economic change. He has built a powerful military power of socialism by effecting a new turn in the building of revolutionary Armed Forces.

It is under the tested leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander, that the Korean People's Army has grown up to be combat ranks of loyal soldiers unhesitatingly laying down their lives for the party and the revolution and to be a matchless powerful Army equipped with strong offensive and defensive means and an all-people defence system with the People's Army as the core has been established in our country.

The undying exploits performed by Comrade Kim Chong-il in leading the work of carrying forward to accomplishment the socialist cause of chuche find their source in his experienced leadership ability.

Matchless grit, extraordinary creativity, determination and stubbornness are the leadership traits and merits of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as a distinguished artist of leadership.

KCNA Notes People Following Yi In-mo's Example

SK2710110293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 27 (KCNA)—A vigorous movement is afoot in Korea to follow the example of Yi In-mo who is called the incarnation of faith and will.

Yi In-mo, 76, is an immortal man. He was wounded and taken prisoner by the enemy while serving as a war correspondent of the Korean People's Army [KPA] during the fatherland liberation war and was subjected to all sorts of tortures and persecution in South Korean prison for 34 years. But he refused to be converted.

When he met Yi In-mo in April, the great leader President Kim Il- song said it was a great pride of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean nation to have such an incarnation of faith and will and indomitable communist like him.

In its calls released in May on the 40th war victory day, the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea called on the entire party members and other working people to "become true revolutionary soldiers like Yi In-mo, the incarnation of faith and will, who defend the revolutionary principle and constancy to the last."

Yi In-mo's notes "Patriotic Life Dedicated to the Motherland and Reunification" is read by many people assiduously. Parts 11-13 of the multi-part feature film "The Nation and Destiny" vividly depicting his noble ideological and moral world and the documentary film "The Incarnation of Faith and Will" serve as a mirror for the working people.

In hearty response to the party's intention, the working people of Korea review their life, comparing it with Yi In-mo's. They are effecting new innovations in the building of socialism with the firm belief that when they defend socialism, they can win and otherwise they shall die.

The workers of the Anju District Coal Mining Complex, the Yongsong General Machine Bureau and the Pyongyang Textile Combine are taking the lead in the drive to create "the speed of the general march of our-style socialism" after they greeted the 40th war victory day with increased production. The cooperative farmers of the Yonbaek Plain and the Yoltusamcholli Plain are hastening thrashing, overjoyed at the unusual bumper crops this year.

The journalists of MINJU CHOSON and the Kum Song youth publishing house registered Yi In-mo as an honorary journalist of their offices and are conducting press activities in a militant way, following the method of news coverage and writing shown by Yi In-mo during the war.

In a letter to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, Yi Chang-ung, a KPA officer, and his six brothers and one sister, representing the unanimous mind of the People's Army soldiers, pledged to learn from the revolutionary spirit of Yi In-mo whom General Kim Chong-il called the incarnation of faith and will and thus to become eight Yi In-mos with a grim resolve to fight it out even if they might be starved, beaten and frozen to death, and become true loyal subjects, sons and daughter with filial piety defending the general in the van with their rifles.

King's Tomb Rebuilt at Kim Il-song's Request

SK2610213793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1507 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 26 (KCNA)—The tomb of King Wang Kon is being reconstructed on an expansion basis in Korea.

Wang Kon is the first king of Koryo (918-1392), the first unified state of Korea.

The tomb more than a thousand years old is situated in Haeson-ri, Kaepung County, Kaesong Municipality, adjacent to the Military Demarcation Line.

The tomb was dug by stealth by foreign aggressors several times in the past and destroyed in the barbarous bombing of the enemy during the Korean war (June 1950-July 1953). So, its original looks have largely been damaged.

The great leader President Kim Il-song who values the cultural heritages of the nation most went round the tomb of King Wang Kon on May 5 last year during his on-the-spot guidance of Kaesong and gave instructions to build up well the tomb and its surroundings.

He indicated the detailed orientation and way of the reconstruction of the tomb, saying that the tomb should be well rearranged because Wang Kon is the founder of the first unified state of Korea.

The reconstruction of the tomb has since been promoted in real earnest and is near completion.

The tomb under reconstruction has three blocks—the grave, the service shrine and the tomb gate.

The block for the grave has three platforms, the grave resting on the top platform.

The grave mound is 20 metres in diametre and 7.5 metres in height. The lower part is surrounded by twelve flat stones in dodecagon, with twelve deiti of the earth engraved on them. A dodecagonal balustrade stands around the grave.

A stone sculpture of tiger stands at each of the four corners of the grave. There is a passage into the grave for visitors to see the mural paintings inside it.

Erected on the other two platforms are eight stone sculptures of military officers and civil officials.

When you pass through the gate of the tomb, you see the service shrine on the left.

Painted on the walls inside the shrine are works of art representing Wang Kon's exploits and his portrait.

There are two monument pavilions on the opposite side of the service shrine.

A thick scenic forest and a wide lawn have been created around the tomb.

A bridge and roads leading to the tomb are being newly built.

When reconstructed, the tomb will be widely used as a place for patriotic education of the working people and youth and children.

Committees for Provincial Elections Organized

SK2610051293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 26 (KCNA)—Election committees at all levels for the election of deputies to the provincial (municipal) People's Assemblies of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea slated for Nov. 21 had been organised by October 25.

Under the detailed regulations for the application of the DPRK law on the election of deputies to people's assemblies at different levels, provincial, city and county election committees and constituency and sub-constituency election committees have been organised throughout the country.

The election committees have begun their work to successfully hold the forthcoming election amid the high political enthusiasm of the citizens determined to consolidate the people's government of Korea and powerfully demonstrate worldwide once again the invincible might of Korean-style socialism based on the single-hearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses.

Construction University Marks 40th Anniversary

SK2710083393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0426 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 27 (KCNA)—The University of Construction and Building Materials Production greeted its 40th founding anniversary.

The great leader President Kim Il-song founded the university with a far-reaching plan of socialist construction in October 1953 when the country was in difficult conditions with everything destroyed in the war.

Over the past 40 years since its foundation, the university has greatly contributed to the economic constriction and scientific and technical development of the country by training a great number of architects and scientists and technicians in the domain of construction and building materials production prepared politically and ideologically, technically and practically by implementing the educational policy of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The teachers and students of the university have made a great contribution to the building of monumental edificesnby undertaking the designing of the genral layout for the construction of the revolutionary battle sites in Mt. Paektu, the Mangyongdae School Children's Palace, the Grand and People's Study House, the Pyongyang indoor stadium and many other major prog ims.

In its congratulatory message to the teachers and students of the university the WPK Central Committee highly estimated the achievements made by them in the training of technical personnel of construction and building materials production and in the development of science and technology.

A meeting commorating the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the university was held Tuesday.

It was attended by Pak Song-chol, Politburo member of the WPK Central Committee and Vice-president Yun Ki-pok, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, Chang-chol, vice-piremier of the Administratcmn Council, and other cadre .

A letter of pledge to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was adopted at the meeting.

Increase in Railroad Freight Turnover Noted

SK2710115293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1038 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Pyongyang, October 27 (KCNA)—The railway freight turnover has increased this month in Korea. Notable are innovations effected in the transport of such major items as coal, fertilizers, mine props, iron ores, cement, irons and steels.

According to data available at the Ministry of Railways, the transport of coal, iron ores, mine props and cement jumped 20, 40, 3.5 and 5.6 percent respectively in recent 20 days above the same period last year.

The general bureaus of western railways and Kaechon railways set a high target of coal transport and boosted coal transport 40 percent in recent 20 days as compared with the same period of last month by well organizing centralized transport. The general bureaus of northern railways and eastern railways successfully organized train composition of centralized transport for the transport of main freight of different domains of the national economy including mining, power and metal industries, steadily increasing the transport of ores, mine props and fertilizers.

Hamhung, Kusong, Sinsongchon, Haeju Youth, Sinanju Youth and other railway stations have hit their yearly transport targets.

Comparison of Report on 25 Oct Contact

SK2510135193

Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean at 1210 GMT on 25 October carries a seven-minute announcer-read report on the 25 October Panmunjom contact to discuss the exchange of special envoys. The radio report has been compared with the Pyongyang Korean Central Television in Korean version published in the 25 October East Asia DAILY REPORT, pages 17 and 18, revealing the following variations:

Column one, paragraph one, sentence one reads: The third contact of working-level delegates for exchanging the special envoys of the top leaders of the North and South took place today at Tongilgak, on... (providing indistinct words)

Column two, paragraph one, last sentence reads: ...complicated international situation. Our side stressed that the working-level delegates of the two sides must perceive their noble mission before the nation, discuss the issues at the contact with a frank attitude, and, thus, make every effort to remove the obstacles to the exchange of special envoys without fail and exchange special envoys at an early date.

Our side said:... (adding sentence)

Column two, second paragraph, last sentence reads: ...in the proposal. Our side pointed out that if the South side's proposed practical procedures are followed, the sides, at the stage of exchanging special envoys, may again enter into arguments over which issues must be discussed and resolved and, thus, unnecessarily waste time. It also pointed out that the working-level delegates of the two sides must, at the stage of contacts of working-level delegates, clearly reach agreement on the mission of special envoys to ensure that when special envoys are exchanged, they discuss and resolve the nation's important matters without delay.

Our side took... (adding two sentences)

South Korea

Minister Urges North To Return to Dialogue

SK2610114393 Seoul YONHAP in English 1123 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 26 (YONHAP)—Deputy Prime Minister Han Wan-sang said on Tuesday North Korea should clear suspicion about their nuclear development and return to the South-North dialogue in a sincere manner.

"If North Korea does so, we will affirmatively consider suspending next year's Team Spirit military exercise," Han said.

Speaking at a Kwanhun Press Club meeting held at the Korean Press Center in the evening, Han said that before trying to normalize relations with the United States, North Korea should make sincere efforts to bring inter-Korean relations back to normalcy.

Han, concurrent national unification minister, said should North Korea ensure nuclear transparency, his government would positively help North Korea improve relations with Seoul's allies.

Expressing the hope that the proposed exchange of special envoys could be realized in November, Han said the exchange, if realized, would be highly instrumental in settling nuclear and other issues pending between the two sides of Korea.

Foreign Minister Han To Visit PRC 28 Oct

SK2610000793 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 26 Oct 93 p 2

[Text] The North Korean nuclear question will be high on the agenda when Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu has talks with his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen in Beijing on Oct. 28. He will also pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Li Peng during the five-day trip to Beijing Oct. 27-31.

Han will leave today for the Chinese capital via Hong Kong where he will deliver a speech on the role of South Korea and China in Asia and the Pacific at a luncheon meeting hosted by the Asia Society on Oct. 27.

Minister Han is expected to seek support from China for the attempt to persuade North Korea to comply with its nuclear safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and to resume high-level inter-Korean dialogue.

Han's trip to Beijing comes at a sensitive time as behind-the-scenes contacts between Washington and Pyongyang are under way for a third round of high-level talks on the North Korean nuclear issue and the U.N. Security Council is preparing a resolution to be adopted early in November against Pyongyang. But Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng last week was quoted as saying that China would refuse to cooperate in economic sanctions of the United Nations against North Korea.

Han Cited on Military Exercises, Nuclear Issue

SK2710104893 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1020 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu has revealed: As long as North Korea continues to promote the development of nuclear weapons, the ROK and the United States will not discontinue joint military exercises.

Before he visits China at the invitation of Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, in a meeting with reporters in Hong Kong today, Minister Han Sung-chu said: The ROK and the United States have never discussed the issue of discontinuing the ROK-U.S. joint military exercise. He stressed: Only when the security situation on the Korean peninsula is drastically improved will the ROK consider the issue of discontinuing the Team Spirit exercise.

Once Pyongyang's nuclear problem is resolved, it, too, should be invited into this forum, Han said.

Korea, China and other East Asian countries have to make contributions to keep the Asia-Pacific region together, he said. The responsibilities are to assure sustained economic growth and to secure stability in this world's most dynamic region for global prosperity and peace.

Han on 'Intraregional Interdependence'

SK2710074693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0045 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Hong Kong, Oct. 27 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, calling Asia and the Pacific inseparable, named a non-intervening China, a non-threatening United States and a non-nuclear Japan as the three pillars to peace in the region Wednesday.

Trans-Pacific trade was growing in volume and intra-regional interdependence, Han told the Asia Society. He is making a two-day stop in Hong Kong before going to Beijing.

"Such being the case, the choice of countries such as Korea and China is clear," he said. "And that choice is to keep the Pacific economy wholesome and integral." But this trade liaison had to be buttressed by a reliable security environment, and this reliable environment depended heavily on China, the United States and Japan, he said.

"The two most dependable elements in this relationship are the self-restraint that China has traditionally imposed on its expansionist impulses, and the mixture of idealism and realism in U.S. policy toward Asia," Han told the Asia Society.

Other nations had risen and fallen because they overstretched their centrifugal national power, he said, but China "has managed its relations with neighboring countries and maintained its statehood by its unique centripetal force."

The United States voluntarily intervened militarily in Asia following World War II, but the actions were to deter Soviet expansionism, not to satisfy its own territorial ambitions, the foreign minister noted.

"With Japan committed to its peace constitution and non-nuclear status, we can build a peaceful Asia-Pacific upon the following three pillars: A non-intervening China, a non-threatening United States and a non-nuclear Japan," he said. But the Asia-Pacific has subregions whose different security equations can only be addressed by a multilateral forum.

"Korea and China along with other interested powers may start searching for a mechanism for the peace and stability of the region... A Northeast Asian multilateral security framework is simply an idea whose time has come," he said.

Further on Han's Remarks

SK2710063993 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 27 Oct 93 p 2

[Article by Hong Kong-based correspondent Pak Ui-chun: "Asia-Pacific Multilateral Security Forum Proposed"]

[Text] Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu on 27 October said: The stability in the Asia-Pacific region will henceforth be maintained by the three axes, namely, China which upholds the principle of noninterference, the United States which poses no threat, and Japan which is a nonnuclear power.

Foreign Minister Han, on his way to visit China, was present today as a guest speaker at a seminar in Hong Kong sponsored by the Asia Society. He made a speech entitled "The Role of the ROK and China in the Asia-Pacific Region." In the speech he stated, "The formation of a multilateral security forum is necessary under the circumstances where the East Asian region is growing economically affluent with continuing dynamism." He asserted that the best policy will be participation and multilateralism.

Foreign Minister Han said: Through a long history, China has played a role of bringing balance of order in East Asia. The United States has carried out a role of bringing balance in the East Asian problems without territorial ambition against this region. Meanwhile, Japan adhered to the peace constitution and the position of a nonnuclear state.

He stressed: The ROK and China share the common position in that both countries need peaceful surrounding environment. If the North Korean nuclear issue is resolved, the two countries will be able to explore ways to have North Korea participate in the regional and world order.

NSP Head Says DPRK To Accept IAEA Probes

SK2610113993 Seoul YONHAP in English 1119 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 26 (YONHAP)—South Korea's top intelligence officer observed on Tuesday that North Korea will ultimately accept inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of its nuclear facilities.

Kim Tok, director of the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP), made the prediction at an informal working luncheon with the members of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee.

An attendee quoted Kim as saying that the North Korean economy is in a so critical condition that any economic sanction against North Korea would deal it a devastating blow. Because of the miserable economic conditions, people discontent with the North Korean system are growing in number, and there were many acts of thievery and even revolts were reported in North Korea, the NSP chief said.

Kim reportedly told the meeting that despite the difficulties, North Korea has been stepping up various military training exercises.

Kim said that North Korea will in the long run accept IAEA inspections but before they do, they may demand a halt even to Ulchi Focus Lens and other joint South Korea-U.S. training exercises in addition to the Team Spirit, according to the attendee.

Former Unification Board Minister Interviewed

SK2610095193 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 24 Oct 93 p 6

[Interview with Sin Tae-hwan, first minister of the National Unification Board and chairman of the Asia Economic Institute, by To Chun-ho, editor of North Korean Department of CHOSON ILBO; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted on introductory editorial notes by reporter An Hui-chang who compiled the interview, and on the question of how Sin Tae-hwan keeps himself physically fit despite his old age]

[To Chun-ho] A former Japanese ambassador said that the situation surrounding the Korean peninsula seemed very critical but Koreans were singing the song of a peaceful reign, and that he was relieved to leave the ROK. Foreign countries are increasingly worrying about our security. What do you think?

[Sin Tae-hwan] A number of Army, Navy, and Air Force generals have been imprisoned since the beginning of the present government. It is obvious how the Army is doing when people guarding the front are in prison. [passage omitted on Sin's remarks on too many workers' holidays and ferry boat disaster which he describes was caused by the prevailing lax discipline in society]

[To] What do you think is the cause of all these?

[Sin] It is not President Kim Yong-sam's fault, of course. The screw started loosening way before him. President Kim is determined to fix this but it is not working well. [passage omitted on public officials' laziness at work] And so are businessmen. They think that they have the money to do things as they wish and that they do not have to involve themselves in the reform drive indefinitely.

[To] Do you mean that the prevailing feeling among the circles of vested interests is that they will try and be patient though their vested interests are at stake?

[Sin] Right. Take the economy as an example. The economy this year is not expected to grow because of the reform. A 4 percent growth is an optimistic forecast. What is worse yet is that entrepreneurs do not make facility investments. This will result in no growth in the first half of next year. [passage omitted on how to overcome bureaucracy]

[To] Bringing our vision outward, we note that many people worry that we seem to be under the same circumstance as we were a century ago when Western powers tried to annex the Korean peninsula.

[Sin] It is not the same. A century ago, we had no power to resist and had to let go of our sovereign rights to imperialist powers. Now, not only we but the major powers, including the United States, are in confusion.

We have to look at the problem in terms of the conflict of interest on an equal footing. I think now it is not an imperialists' invasion as was in the past. Our falling into trouble makes them fall into trouble, too. It is difficult, however, to bring desirable reconciliation to the conflicting interest. [passage omitted on the importance of education]

[To] What is your opinion of the moves initiated by the Asia- Pacific community to restructure economic and security order?

[Sin] It is not easy because each country concerned, including the United State, Japan, the PRC, and Russia, have different interests. A good example is that the United States intends to exercise influence in terms of security on Southeast and Northeast Asian countries, but it will not work out well. They do not trust the United States because it betrayed them in the Vietnam war.

[To] As the first National Unification Board [NUB] minister, how would you define the true nature of North Korea? Sometimes they look rational, sometimes irrational.

[Sin] Although North Korea claims to stand for Marxist-Leninist communism, communism in North Korea is not molded in its ideal pattern but fashioned for Kim Il-song's long-term power. They created a one-man rule system unrelated to the ideology and ideals of Marxism-Leninism.

[To] In the light of such an attribute of the North Korean system, North Korea's nuclear development is becoming an impending threat. How should we cope with this?

[Sin] I do not think North Korea will come to a stage in which it produces and uses nuclear weapons.

The PRC and Russia will not tolerate such a situation, and as far as the nuclear issue is concerned, the Cold War still exists. Furthermore, Kim Il-song is considered to be a clever man as he has been able to stay in power for such a long time. He will not act recklessly and thoughtlessly. He is only using the nuclear issue as a card to sustain his system because the PRC and Russia turned their backs on him and the economy is worsening.

What is important is how long Kim Il-song can live. A Russian whom I am well acquainted with told me that Kim once collapsed because his sworn lump on the back of his neck caused too much pressure to his heart.

It is more urgent for us to prepare for the possible North Korean attack on us with conventional arms when North Korea is driven into a corner, and for the possibility of North Koreans' massive exodus to the South due to a rebellion.

[To] Then, when would the nuclear issue be resolved?

[Sin] That is not an issue to be resolved through South-North dialogue, but through international agencies with joint efforts by the world's major powers and us. It will be resolved eventually. It is dangerous that some people in our society assert that because North Korea is developing nuclear weapons they do not see why we shouldn't do the same. Peaceful use of nuclear energy is all right, but countering the North Korean nuclear program with the same nuclear program will result in mutual destruction.

[To] Where should we concentrate our efforts for the improvement of South-North relations?

[Sin] For the time being, the South and the North should go their own way while carrying on economic exchange. However, economic exchange should not be done free of charge or behind the scenes. If the North needs grain, we can provide them with it in exchange for something, pollack, for instance. Anyhow, we need to establish a policy in such a way as to benefit North Korea.

[To] How do you appraise the present government's reunification policy?

[Sin] It looks fine. It is not desirable that the government gives an impression that it is too eager for dialogue with North Korea. It is time for us to reinforce our diplomatic activities with the United States, Japan, the PRC, and Russia. [passage omitted]

PRC Envoy in Tokyo Opposes DPRK Sanctions

SK2710093293 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0910 GMT 27 Oct 93

[REUTERS/YONHAP from Tokyo]

[Text] Xu Dunxin, Chinese ambassador in Tokyo, revealed today that China will strongly oppose UN sanctions against North Korea, which is suspected of developing nuclear weapons. In a news conference held in Tokyo today, Ambassador Xu Dunxin said: We cannot agree to UN sanctions against North Korea. He stressed that the nuclear issue related with North Korea should be resolved through dialogue.

Ambassador Xu Dunxin said: We expect North Korea's nuclear issue to be resolved through dialogue among North Korea, the United States, the ROK, and the International Atomic Energy Agency. He held that UN sanctions against North Korea will aggravate tensions on the Korean peninsula.

Editorial Urges U.S. Caution in DPRK Talks

SK2710052893 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 Oct 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Inter-Korea Nuclear Talks"]

[Text] As far as inter-Korean talks about the high-stakes nuclear question are concerned, it is very difficult to determine whether success is being achieved or not, as the unpredictable and capricious North Korea is liable to change at any time its stand depending on its interests.

It is a long time since the Stalinist country in the North lost all international credibility with its failure to keep its obligations. Accordingly, there is little reason for Seoul to come to any hasty conclusion on the prospects for the future bilateral talks with Pyongyang or the projected third round of U.S-North Korea high-level talks.

With regard to the working-level contact between South and North Korea at Panmunjom Monday, some officials aired an optimistic view about the possibility of the proposed exchange of high-ranking emissaries solving the nuclear issue and other problems, although no official agreements have been reached at the talks.

The upbeat view appears to be based on the North's "soft" draft for a special envoy exchange agreement, despite its repeated demand for the permanent halt to the U.S.-South Korea military exercise, Team Spirit, and Seoul's renunciation of international cooperation on the nuclear question.

However, the North tactically delayed its next contact with the South until Nov. 4, apparently to await the result of an expected back-stage Washington-Pyongyang meeting toward the end of this month and the ensuing third round of high-level talks which had been made dependent on progress in the inter-Korean dialogue as well as North Korea's talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

With North Korea's ulterior motive becoming clearer, the Seoul government has no need to rise to the North's bait but rather should caution the U.S. against Pyongyang's attempts to extract concessions from it in disregard of the South Korean position.

At the same time, Seoul must continue close consultations with Washington over the nuclear question and other related problems, including the discontinuation of

Team Spirit, aid for the North's construction of a light-water nuclear reactor system and Washington-Pyongyang diplomatic rapprochement. These are problems that Pyongyang wants settled in an overall, political package, if present appearances can be relied on.

U.S. Opposition to Lifting Flight Ban Viewed

SK2510031093 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 24 Oct 93 p 15

[Text] With the rapid increase in the number of aircraft landing and taking off, it is urgently necessary to lift the flight ban in the sky over the northeast region of the Kimpo International Airport. The request for lifting the flight ban region remains unsettled due to opposition by the U.S. Air Force. This makes it impossible to carry out proper flight control of aircraft, which could cause a major disaster at any time.

According to the minutes of the 158th meeting of the ROK Flight Region Committee, which were released by the Democratic Party lawmaker Yi Yun-su on 23 October, the Ministry of Transportation requested the committee to lift the flight ban (R4/P-518) [as published] of the air route in the northeast region of the Kimpo airport, where presently no civilian aircraft is allowed to fly, to ease air traffic congestion of the Kimpo airport and to ease the congestion in the sky over Kimpo in the event a new airport is built. According to the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July, which was attended by representatives of the Defense Ministry, the Eighth U.S. Army, and the Presidential Security Service, the U.S. Air Force in the ROK opposed this request on the ground that this is the region for the ROK-U.S. joint aerial exercise and even requested an expansion of the boundary of the altitude restriction further to the south. The committee accepted this position of the U.S. Air Force and withheld the passage of the proposal for lifting the flight ban region.

At present, the flight control authorities of the Kimpo airport are using only the air routes in the northwest region of the airport for flight control, which enables them to control 40 aircraft per hour, which is only 680 [number as published] aircraft per day. Therefore, during the air traffic rush hours from 1600 to 2000, from 45 to 50 aircraft, more than the number of aircraft that can be properly handled, have to land and take off in one- to two-minute intervals. The aircraft that do not have landing permission must circle in the sky over Kimpo for 20 to 30 minutes. This not only could cause major disasters, but is also causing a considerable economic loss.

For instance, at around 2010 on 20 October, the flight control tower gave take off permission to Korean Air Flight No. 615 bound for Hong Kong from Seoul and landing permission to Cathay Pacific Airways Flight No. 420 bound for Seoul from Hong Kong almost simultaneously, which could have resulted in a collision of the two aircraft.

Joint Naval Talks With U.S. on 26 Oct

SK2510070293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0645 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 25 (YONHAP)—The 11th South Korea-U.S. Navy talks open Tuesday at Kyeryongdae Naval Headquarters in Taejon for three days, a Navy spokesman said Monday.

Deputy Chief of Naval Operations Vice Adm. Yim Tae-sop will be the senior officer in the 11-member Korean delegation, while Vice Adm. Leighton W. Smith Junior, deputy chief of Plans, Policy, and Operations of the Navy Department, leads the 11 U.S. Navy representatives. They will discuss a wide range of mutual Navy interests, including Seoul's policy on reinforcement of Naval force and 21st century Naval strategy according to the U.S. Navy White Paper, the spokesman said.

The two sides are expected to intensively cover ways to improve the use of submarines, utilize war game models to maximize war preparation, and improve their underwater and anti-submarine capabilities.

The Korean and U.S. Navies have been meeting every 18 months in each country in turn since 1978 to coordinate a closer and more efficient partnership.

No Summit With Japan During Nov APEC Meeting

SK2710113893 Seoul YONHAP in English 1121 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 27 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Japan have decided not to hold their summit meeting during the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Ministerial Conference slated for mid-November in Seattle, a source at the Japanese Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday. Originally a meeting between President Kim Yong-sam and Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa was planned during the period of the APEC talks.

"The reason for cancelling the Kim-Hosokawa summit in Seattle is that the two leaders would meet at Kyongju, Korea on Nov. 6-7," the source said.

President Vows To Maintain Clean Government

SK2710090193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0654 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 27 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam, saying that people follow their government only when it is clean and honest, pledged Wednesday he would never be involved in influence peddling while in office. Kim made the pledge during a breakfast meeting Wednesday with 26 vice ministers. He asked them to follow suit.

"Only a clean government can earn its people's trust," Kim said, adding that he would firmly deal with any ministry that involved itself in graft.

"It is important to let the people realize that a civilian government carries out law and order in accordance with the nation's law," Kim said.

Noting that the government will start a campaign to establish social order and a cleanup movement in November, Kim said that it is important for the people to observe and follow smaller orders, however trivial they may appear. The president also said he has received reports that many government officials have a "don't-rock-the-boat" attitude. Especially in government-invested corporations, Kim said, officials are said to be dividing up the taxpayers' money and pocketing it just because their corporations do not have a specific owner, Kim said. This kind of practice has to be firmly corrected as part of efforts for reform, he said.

With regard to the question of instituting an official checking mechanism of each newspaper's paid circulation, known as the ABC (Audit Bureau of Circulation) system, Kim said the government may have given an impression that it is forcing it upon the press. But it has to be left up to the newspapers themselves to adopt the system if they are to secure the trust of the people, he added.

Commenting on the sinking of the Sohae-ho ferry, Kim said the lax attitude that has taken root in society and shoddy buildings erected in the past are coming back to haunt the country. The president asked the vice ministers to work hard to prevent disasters.

On the problem of the teachers fired by the previous administration for attempting to form a union, Kim said that if private schools refuse to reinstate them, the government should try and absorb them into the public school system.

On the reported dumping of nuclear waste in the East Sea [Sea of Japan] by Japan, Kim said he would discuss the matter when Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa visits South Korea for a summit Nov. 6.

Provincial Police Agencies Told To Reform

SK2310022093 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 23 Oct 93 p 3

[Text] The National Police Agency (NPA) has recently told provincial police agencies to clean house by weeding out middle- and low-ranking police officers who still offer payoffs to their superiors to curry favors.

The NPA's order forecasts a second round of sweeping reform within the nation's police force following the purge last month of high-ranking officers above the superintendent level who were suspected of involvement in various irregularities including real estate speculation.

The agency believes that the corrupt practice of offering money to superiors for favors still prevails among police officers, making the police force in general be seen as a group that refuses to change even under the new civilian government, an NPA official said.

This practice, according to the official, is the source of all that is wrong within the police force because it not only makes senior officers unable to exercise their authority properly but also leads junior officers to commit irregularities.

"We hear that police officers at the lowest administrative echelon who are in direct contact with the public still receive money illegally from shops and small businesses in their districts," said the official who wanted to remain anonymous.

According to the official, few police officers now seem to regularly collect payoffs from their district clients in return for protection of their business interests. However, he added, there appear to be many officers who still receive money from people on such special occasions as Chusok.

"Shop owners and small businessmen still tend to give money not because they are asked to do so but because they are afraid of what will happen if they don't," the official said.

For people who operate small shops or businesses, there are many things that can be conveniently resolved if the police help them. This situation, combined with the practice of offering money to higher-ups, makes it hard for low-ranking police officers to resist the temptation to take illegal money. Moreover, these officers are not well paid, considering their heavy workload.

But the NPA is determined to root out corruption within the police at any cost and fundamentally change its negative image implanted in the minds of the public, the official stressed.

Hence, it ordered provincial agencies to fire all police officers who are found to have given and taken payoffs regardless of their rank and the amount of money involved.

At the same time, the agency also ordered a thorough inspection of low-echelon officers who have been dealing with such corruption- prone affairs as crime prevention and investigation and traffic accidents for a long period at one police station or substation.

DLP Factionalism Seen in Vote on Ex-Colleague

SK2610101193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0735 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 26 (YONHAP)—Discord within the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] has deepened after a larger-than- expected number of DLP lawmakers crossed the party line and voted for proposals at the National Assembly for the release of two of their colleagues who are charged with accepting bribes.

Between 18 and 30 DLP lawmakers are believed to have rebelled against the party leadership and cast their ballots Monday for the motions seeking the release of Reps. Pak Chol-on and Kim Chong-in, who are on trial for bribe-taking.

Shocked by the rebellion, top DLP leaders huddled in the chamber of Party Chairman Kim Chong-pil in the afternoon to discuss ways to douse the flames of discontent among some party members. But the urgent meeting dispersed immediately. Party leaders feared an excessive reaction could backfire and add fuel to the simmering discord.

"Let's not discuss this (voting) problem any more," Chairman Kim was quoted by party insiders as telling the meeting. "Instead, we should concentrate our efforts to lead the party better."

Kim, stressing party unity and solidarity, said: "We have to overcome factional divisions and unite for stable operation of our party."

At the presidentiai office in Chongwadae, Kim Tok-yong, first state minister for political affairs, Chief Presidential Secretary Pak Kwan-yong and Senior Presidential Secretary for Political Affairs Chu Ton-sik held a similar meeting.

They are said to have decided not to try and find out who voted against the party. Instead, they will work harder for the solidarity of the party and prevent further rebellion. But these decisions are easier made than done.

The factional fight is being waged mainly between President Kim Yong-sam's followers, or members of the Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) faction, and members of the Democratic Justice Party (DJP) faction, once headed by former President No Tae-u.

The ruling party was formed in February 1990 through a merger of the DJP, RDP and the New Democratic Republican Party led by Kim Chong-pil. And it has been plagued with discord among the factions ever since.

The first solvo for the current dispute was fired by Rep. Yu Sung-hwan, a RDP faction man, when he publicly criticized one of the DJP-faction leaders, Rep. Kim Yun-hwan, for his political background, which is highlighted by his services to army general- turned-Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u.

Yu's attack was followed by an untimely—or timely—remark by Choe Hyong-u, former secretary general of the DLP and long-time right-hand man of President Kim, that the next DLP chairman has to be a reformist.

The remark was taken by Kim Chong-pil, his followers and some non-RDP faction members in the party as aimed at hurting the image of the current chairman. Choe was also seen by many as trying to lay the groundwork for the party's national convention next year, where some believe the successor to Kim Chong-pil will be chosen.

The Kim Yun-hwan camp reacted sharply against Yu for making a disparaging remark against Kim. But some suspected that it was Choe who had prompted Yu to put down Kim Yun-hwan.

Kim Yun-hwan is increasingly mentioned as a possible candidate for the chairmanship of the ruling party, at least among the DJP faction members.

The DJP faction claims that the RDP faction has constantly been criticizing it for being passive in President Kim's reform drive, but if the RDP people keep putting down DJP faction members, they could help ultimately break up the party as was shown in Monday's rebellion.

Many analysts believe, however, that chances of the DJP faction going to that extreme are remote because of the very nature of the DJP faction, which, after all, is a collection of conservative politicians.

Nevertheless, there is a possibility of the ruling party being engulfed in a fierce factional feud unless its leaders take resolute measures soon.

President Said 'Heavy at Heart'

SK2710110593 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 Oct 93 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column: "Kim's Feeling"]

[Text] Because of the larger-than-expected 10 to 20 "revolt votes" from the total 169 ruling party lawmakers who took part in Monday's voting on the resolution calling for the release of Reps. Kim Chong-in and Pak Chol-on from jail, President Kim Yong-sam appeared to feel heavy at heart, a senior presidential aide said yesterday.

"President Kim looked down cast by the vote returns," the aide who wanted to remain anonymous said, choosing is words with care. He denied the report that the chief executive hit the ceiling at the "mutiny" in which 10 to 20 legislators of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] voted for the resolution in favor of Kim's so-called political opponents.

The aide said, apparently trying to play down any political meaning, "It would be safe to say that we feel sour but are not taking it seriously."

Meanwhile, major Chongwadae staffers grimaced at DLP Chairman Kim Chong-pil's National Assembly address in which he stressed the need for the modification of the current economic policy as well as the review of the past-oriented anti-corruption campaign because remarks could be construed as a roundabout criticism of Kim's reform drive.

A ranking Chongwadae official aid when asked to comment, "In his capacity as the ruling party chairman, he may have been giving advice to the administration."

Taped Court Testimony of Kim Chae-kyu Revealed

SK2610025093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0210 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 26 (YONHAP)—The direct and main cause for the assassination of President Pak Chong-hui in 1979 was threefold: strong U.S. criticism of his dictatorial regime, anti-government protests in Pusan and Masan, and his "disorderly" private life.

This is the conclusion of an analysis published by the mass- circulation daily TONG-A ILBO on the date the president was killed 14 years ago by bullets fired by one of his close aides, Korean Central Intelligence Agency Director Kim Chae-kyu.

The newspaper, in a front-page story, said that it had reached this conclusion on the basis of a tape recording of the testimony offered by the assassin at the court martial. The TONG-A ILBO said it was able to obtain the tape exclusively.

The assassination took place during a dinner in one of the Anga, or safe houses, used by top government officials to discuss secret government affaires. Cha Chi-chol, chief of the Presidential Security Service, attended the dinner, among others.

The newspaper quoted Kim as testifying that shortly before he shot the president, Pak and Cha chastized him for not arresting then opposition leader Kim Yong-sam. The failure to take Kim Yong-sam into custody, Pak and Cha reportedly argued, had proliferated into anti-government demonstrations in Pusan and the nearby city of Masan.

Kim Chae-kyu said he did not arrest Kim Yong-sam because he had thought it would have constituted double jeopardy, according to the newspaper. In his testimony at the court martial, Kim Chae-kyu quoted Pak as saying then, "I'll directly order (the police and military) to fire (at demonstrators in Pusan and Masan) if the situation gets worse."

"It was obvious, like seeing the fire, that as long as the president lives, democracy could not be restored to this country and that as long as the Yusin (revitalizing reforms) system is maintained, there would be an enormous number of victims," Kim Chae- kyu was quoted by the newspaper as saying. This, apparently, was his justification for killing the president. The so-called Yusin was proclaimed in October 1972 by President Pak allegedly in order to perpetuate his dictatorial regime.

Anti-government protesters staged mass demonstrations against the Yusin system in Pusan and Masan in October 1979, and the government proclaimed martial law in Pusan and a garrison decree was imposed on Masan and Changwon.

Kim Chae-kyu in Dec. 8 testimony at the court martial testified that he had gone down to Pusan to check an allegation that the anti- government demonstrations were being organized by "left-leaning students."

"But when I actually checked, there were only 16 students among the 160 people arrested for staging demonstrations," the TONG-A ILBO quoted Kim as saying in the tape, hitherto unavailable to the public. The newspaper said Kim told the court there was widespread popular support for the demonstrators. Against his report, however, presidential bodyguard Cha demanded stronger crackdowns on demonstrators and opposition forces.

"In Cambodia, (those in power were) sacrificing 3 million people. Would it be any problem if we sacrificed one or two million?" Kim quoted Cha as saying, according to the TONG-A ILBO.

Although a mere chief presidential body guard, Cha wielded enormous power as he enjoyed President Pak's trust and confidence. Cha was also slain by Kim during the assassination.

Kim Chae-kyu was subsequently convicted and hanged for the murder. The newspaper further quoted Kim as saying that he had also suggested to President Pak that the government relax the Yusin system since the United States did not like it either. To which, Kim said, the president replied that if the United States wanted, it could withdraw all its troops from South Korea.

Kim was quoted as saying in the testimony that if the United States abandoned South Korea temporarily because it did not like the dictatorial regime in Seoul, then it would invite another misfortune as Korea had experienced by the Korean war following a statement by U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson that had placed South Korea outside the U.S. defense perimeter.

Labor, Management, Government To Cooperate

SK2710110493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0710 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 27 (YONHAP)—Sharing an understanding that the Korean economy is in bad shape, representatives of government, big business and organized labor adopted a resolution on Wednesday promising to do their best to boost the economy through dialogue and cooperation. The open debate on the economy and development of industrial relations, in which 106 people took part, was sponsored by the National Council on Economy and Society, which comprises the Federation of Korean Trade Unions (FKTU), the Korea Employers' Federation (KEF) and public interest groups.

Among the participants were the administration's economic team—Deputy Prime Minister Yi Kyong-sik, Finance Minister Hong Chae-hyong, Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Kim Chol-su, and Labor Minister Yi In-che—and Presidential Secretary for Labor Relations Pak Pun-ku.

FKTU President Pak Chong-kun led the 42 labor representatives, KEF Chairman Yi Tong-chan attended with 39 employers, and Korea Labor Institute President Kim Tae-mo was among the 16 public representatives and scholars.

Pay restraint alone cannot bring stable industrial relations nor continuous economic progress, Pak of the FKTU said. He recommended that government and business build a new partnership with labor to raise the work spirit and draw out voluntary cooperation.

Speaking on behalf of the business community, Yi said that companies must set a long-term management strategy and invest in technology development and management reformation to strengthen their international competitiveness. He suggested that unionists discard their aggressive viewpoints on labor-management relations, and seek partnership to walk at the forefront in raising productivity, saving energy, and preventing accidents.

Deputy Premier Yi, who is also economic planning minister, promised to abolish the practice of unilaterally deciding all labor and economic policies like pay, employment, welfare, price, tax and business competitiveness for industry and production workers to follow, and instead seek prior consent from them.

To revive the economy, he suggested stronger international competitiveness through stable pay and quality productivity, voluntary settlement of wage negotiations, and comfortable livelihood of workers through stable prices and employment.

Government Says Deposit Rates To Be Liberalized

SK2610065193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0635 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 26 (YONHAP)—After much talk of when and how, the government has finally decided to implement the second-phase deregulation of interest rates Nov. 1 in view of the recently stabilized market money situation. To be covered by the second-phase deregulation will be long-term deposits of more than two years and all loans by financial institutions. The lending rates of strategic finance will, however, continue to be regulated. With the second-phase step in effect, 84 percent of all lending rates and 56 percent of all deposit rates will have been deregulated.

The government had promised phase-two liberalization this year to get interest rates off its hands and entrust them to the market to raise the efficiency and competitiveness of Korea's financial industry.

Clients and industries must pay close attention to their trading in the future as banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions will be able to lend money at different rates.

Interest rate liberalization increases the burden on businesses, particularly small- and medium-sized companies who attribute their sagging international competitiveness to high interest rates.

Since the first deregulation of interest rates in 1988, the prime rate has been set at 8.5 percent but can be raised up to 10 percent according to banks' credit and performance record. Experts recommend a full study and comparison of the financial institutions presenting the highest and lowest rates and predict interest rates will be the decisive element in the competitiveness of banks.

Subject to deregulation are only loan rates of banks, insurance, and mutual savings and finance companies, long-term deposit rates of above two years, and corporate, finance, and bank debentures of below two years. Of deposit packages of mutual savings and finance banks, rates on installment credits with maturity of above two years and on installment deposits received more than one year of deferment.

In addition, the government will raise the annual interest on deposits of 1 million won in household checking accounts to 3 percent from the current 1 percent to popularize the use of personal checks.

Electronics Industry Active Due to Strong Yen

SK2510075193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0238 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 25 (YONHAP)—South Korean and Japanese electronics manufacturers are joining hands in technology and manufacturing partnerships because of the strong yen, Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry officials said Monday.

Goldstar Electron Co. is seeking a contract with Hitachi on the transfer of technology to make 16 megabyte (M) dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chips and sell them in original equipment manufacturing (OEM). It formed a technology and manufacturing partnership with Hitachi in 1989 for 1 M-DRAM chips, and for 4 M-DRAM in 1990.

Hyundai Electronics Co. hopes to cooperate with Fujitsu in mutual OEM production of 4 M-DRAM and 16 M-DRAM chips and research on future-generation memory chips.

Samsung is working to develop a flash memory chip together with Toshiba as well as sharing the patent and maintains a good partnership in cassette-making with Sony. Goldstar has also expanded its cooperation and OEM share with Japanese manufacturers from cassette to compact discs. With such stronger affiliation, Korea's semiconductor exports to Japan soared 58.3 percent by August from a year earlier, Ministry officials said.

The officials noted that Japan covers 30 percent of the world's semiconductor market and 40 percent of the global electric home appliance market.

Korean industry can make easier and safer access to the Japanese market through strong partnership with Japanese companies and help to improve the chronic trade deficit with Japan as Tokyo needs to fill up 20 percent of its semiconductor market with foreign goods under its semiconductor agreement with Washington.

Korea has the advantage of learning advanced technology from top Japanese makers, but can increase its dependency on Japanese technology and be at a disadvantage in negotiating the OEM price, the officials pointed out.

Burma

General Warns Traders Against 'Smuggling'

BK2210044793 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General Myo Nyunt, commander of the Yangon [Rangoon] Military Command, held a meeting at 1300 today at the Yangon Military Command conference hall to explain instructions contained in a speech delivered by Senior General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], at the quarterly coordination meeting between SLORC and the state and divisional law and order restoration councils. The meeting was attended by Colonel Thura Myint Maung, deputy commander of the Yangon Military Command; strategic commanders; regional commanders; garrison commanders; staff officers from the Yangon Military Command Headquarters; and commanders of regiments and companies under the Yangon Military Command. [passage omitted on responsibilities and moral code of military personnel]

Speaking at the meeting, Lt. Gen. Myo Nyunt said some political activists and politicians without political parties are trying to create economic instability by spreading rumors that Nobel laureates have been sent out to impose economic sanctions on Myanmar [Burma] if their demands are not met. He said the nine organizations which had taken up arms against the state have now come to understand and have faith in the goodwill of the state government and its constructive undertaking and that they now want peace. [passage omitted]

Continuing, Lt. Gen. Myo Nyunt said he would like to inform about situation regarding the National Convention. He said a preliminary coordination meeting was held with delegates groups to determine their number. The National Convention coordinated and prescribed the chapter headings for the constitution. The delegate groups then held discussions to obtain basic principles for the chapter headings. The basic principles have been laid down after the National Convention Convening Work Commmittee and the National Convention Convening Commission coordinated on the comprehensive appraisal report of the [Panel of] Chairmen.

Lt. Gen. Myo Nyunt explained that the duty to draw up a firm state constitution is the cause of the entire nation and it is necessary for the military personnel to study the process.

Lt. Gen. Myo Nyunt added that the Union Solidarity and Development Association [USDA] has been formed with Minister of Cooperatives U Than Aung as secretary. He said family members and children of the Defense Services personnel can join the association. [passage omitted]

Continuing, he said the foreign elements sent out Nobel laureates with accusations of human rights violation. The KIA [Kachin Independence Army], which had met with the Nobel laureates delegation, no longer believes in the work of the Nobel laureates and they had held talks with the secretary-1 to work for regional development in Kachin State. These organizations have realized peace and this is proof that the foreign allegations of human rights violations in Myanmar are unfounded.

Decribing the current economic situation in the country, Lt. Gen. Myo Nyunt said he had explained on 18 October how big traders are colluding with secret agents to manipulate prices. He said if the prices do not fall and rice and cooking oil disappear because of smuggling, the insincerity of the traders and the agents will be revealed. It will be necessary to watch them. He said we have tolerated this for five years and we must issue a warning in case things go beyond the tolerance level. He said we have to stand by the side of the poor.

In his closing address to the coordination meeting of the SLORC with the state and divisional law and order restoration councils, the SLORC chairman had stated that assistance would be given to private entrepreneurs within the framework of the law. However, if they continued to smuggle, effective action would be taken against them. Lt. Gen. Myo Nyunt said it is necessary for commanders to be aware of this warning and be prepared to take necessary action against smuggling and the disappearance of rice through unscrupulous means.

The meeting ended at 1600.

ABSDF Insurgent Surrenders at Bangkok Embassy

BK2610143393 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Private Tun Naing alias Moe Naing from the Naing Aung faction of the ABSDF [All Burma Students' Democratic Front] terrorist insurgent organization's 203d Battalion surrendered at the Myanmar [Burmese] Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, on 20 October.

Tun Naing, who hailed from Lethit Village of Tenasserim Township, Tenasserim Division, arrived at the ABSDF 203d Battalion's Mawtaung Camp around October 1989. When the defense services captured Mawtaung Camp in early 1990, the insurgents fled to Minthamee Camp. In November 1990, the ABSDF split into two factions—the Moe Thi Zun faction and the Naing Aung faction. He joined the ABSDF 203d Battalion of the Naing Aung faction led by Chan Paing and was active in the Tenasserim region.

On his return to the Minthamee camp, he became disheartened because of the disunity among ABSDF members and the inequality of the top management and fled to Bangkok in the country on the other side. He was arrested by the Thai police and jailed twice. When he was freed from jail he ran out of money and faced many difficulties. After realizing that staying in this situation would get him nowhere and because of his desire to be reunited with his parents he decided to surrender

through the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok after inquiring about its location.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Companies Propose Joint Ventures With PRC

BK2510132693 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0947 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Oct 25 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Fifteen Malaysian companies have proposed venturing into joint-ventures worth a total of RM [Ringgit Malaysia] 11.9 billion (about US$4.76 billion) with their counterparts in China, International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz said Monday.

The projects included the petroleum refining, real estate development and manufacture of cosmetics, instant noodles and electronic items, she said when briefing newsmen on her recent trip to the republic.

A Malaysian public-listed company with wide interests in the food and electronics industry, would be undertaking the RM1 billion project (US$400 million).

Rafidah led a 130-member delegation on a business tour of China ending last Saturday. The team visited Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen where the businessmen held talks with a total of 450 companies.

Troop Deployment for UN Duties To 'Continue'

BK2710075793 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Malaysian troops deployed for United Nations duties overseas are instruments of Malaysia's foreign policy. Defense Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak said the deployment is the country's contribution toward shaping the new world order.

Speaking to newsmen in Kuala Lumpur, he said the ministry would continue deploying troops for UN missions both as military observers and peacekeepers.

Currently, Malaysian troops are serving with the UN missions in Cambodia, Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and several other parts of the world. He said deployment of troops in troubled nations is not just a purview of the major powers. Smaller countries like Malaysia could also contribute soldiers for peace.

Mahathir on Business Potential in Cyprus, Malta

BK2610092293 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Malaysian businessmen should grab the opportunities in exploring the vast business potential in Malta and Cyprus. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed says among the opportunities they could participate in Malta and Cyprus is in the tourist industry.

He said this to reporters at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang on his return after attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Cyprus and a visit to Malta.

Malaysia also hopes to further capture more overseas markets in the export of the national car Proton.

Ghafar Not To 'Defend' Party Post in Polls

BK2110113193 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1009 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Kuala Lumpur, Oct 21 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Former Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba will not defend his party post of deputy president in the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), paving the way for Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim to be returned unopposed to the post in the party elections on 4 November. UMNO is the major component in the ruling National Front coalition and the holder of the post traditionaly occupies the Deputy Prime Minister's Office.

Ghafar sent the forms rejecting nominations to the post to UMNO Secretary General Mohamed Rahmat through a special assistant Abdul Rahman Yunus. Abdul Rahman said Ghafar arrived at the decision Wednesday but would continue to hold the post until the election;

Ghafar, who obtained only seven nominations to defend the post, had submitted his resignation as deputy prime minister last Thursday. Anwar, one of the three incumbent vice-presidents, has received 145 nominations for the number two post.

Two incumbents and three other candidates will vie for the three posts of vice president. The five—Defence Minister Najib Razak, Selangor State Chief Minister Mohamed Taib, Johor State Chief Minister Muhyiddin Yassin, and incumbents, Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, and Agriculture Mimister Sanusi Junid—have sent in their forms accepting the nominations. [passage omitted on UMNO's lower-echelon contests]

Government Plans Defense Spending Increase

BK2510122793 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0914 GMT 25 Oct 93 txt

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Oct 25 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia will increase its defence spending from about 2.5 per cent to more than four percent of gross domestic product (GDP) next year.

Defence Minister Najib Razak said Monday there was a need to increase defence spending but it would be within the country's affordability and not detrimental to its long-term competitive position.

He added: We have not done the final calculations yet on this year's defence spending because there are certain expensive items that have not been fully realised yet.

For example, the final price tag of the proposed F-18 and MiG purchase has not been concluded yet so we do not know what the final expenditure to the government is. But, certainly, defence spending will go beyond four per cent, he told reporters here.

Finance Minister's Political Career Reviewed

BK2510112893 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 6 Oct 93 p 5

[Article by M.G.G. Pillai]

[Text] KUALA LUMPUR (JP)—The Malaysian finance minister, Anwar Ibrahim, in a blitz krieg last month, obtained 20 times the nominations for the UMNO Baru [New United Malays National Organization] deputy presidency than the incumbent deputy prime minister, Abdul Ghafar Baba. With 145 of the 153 divisions having held their nominations, he has 13 to Ghafar's seven. Since each nomination comes with 10 bonus votes, it ensures a runaway victory, even should Ghafar win a thumping majority of the floor votes in the party elections in November. But the juggernaut a candidate faces persistent allegations of undemocratic practices and that can be a bother.

Anwar Ibrahim's focussed calculating ambition, evident as an undergraduate at the University of Malaya, where he first became embroiled in Islamic politics, was clear long before he joined UMNO Baru in 1982. The opposition Parti Sa-Islam Malaysia [Parti Islam seMalaysia] (PAS—Pan Malaysian Islamic Party) Member of Parliament Ahmad Sabu, claimed during the July session that Anwar told the Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (ABIM) [Malaysian Islamic Youth Movement] leaders after he joined UMNO Baru that he would be prime minister in nine years. His impatience, many believe, is from having missed that deadline by two years.

He is 46, personable, a man for all seasons, who has risen steadily in two decades from the anti-establishment undergraduate stomping on the UMNO flag, to political detention under the Internal Security Act (ISA), to the urbane politician in expensive Italian suits who is at home in the political salons of the world. His opponents mistook his determination. Many who stood by him in his rise are no longer with him, and he does not make friends easily. His shared enmity with Sanusi Junid, the agriculture minister and his senior at the Malay College, Kuala Kangsar, predates their joint involvement in ABIM in the early 1970s.

What worries Malaysians, not just the Malays, is the fascist in him. Within 11 years, he converted UMNO Baru Youth and ABIM, the Islamic pressure group of which he was secretary-general until he joined UMNO, into his stormtroopers, and gathered around him men and organizations, through soft talk and rougher actions, to back his efforts. He is unfazed by allegations that money is used with abandon; that rules and procedures are shortcircuited to prevent his rival, Ghafar, from even being nominated: and of the fear psychosis among politicians and businessmen if they did not join his bandwagon. Some of his choices of running mates are unfortunate, in the light of recent allegations of rampant corruption: Tan, Sri Abdu Rahim Tamby Chik, the chief minister of Malacca, for UMNO Baru Youth leader and Tan Sri Mohamed Taib, the mentri besar (chief minister) of Selangor, as one of his nominees for the three vice presidencies.

But the ends justify the means; any in his team who proves an embarrassment can be dropped—later; but he needs them now. Little is known of his plans, or policies. His acolytes—he has an impressive number of them—talk on his behalf. He stays out, making a stand only when he seems to get a bad image. He has, by stealth and design, taken control of the three TV channels, THE NEW STRAITS TIMES and UTUSAN MELAYU newspaper groups, and all newspapers and magazines are beholden to him, one way or another. By contrast, the deputy prime minister's campaign seems lacklustre, unfocussed and floundering. Partly this is because he is all but "blacked out" by both newspapers and television.

Anwar remains an enigma in much the same way as Lee Kuan Yew, the former Singapore prime minister and now senior minister, is. There is much in common in the way each rose to the top. But his rise follows President Bill Clinton's, who chartered his political career with the same determination. If he has but half Lee's astuteness, he probably could stay at the top for as long as he wants. Resistance to Lee's changes, in his early days in power, came from the swift changes he made to the body politic.

People resist change, and hasty or dramatic change in policy can frustrate governance. UMNO Baru's resistance, especially among older members, to him, stems from this. The split in UMNO in 1987, which led to the party's second generation leaders led by Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, to form a new political party, Semangat '46 [Spirit of '46], in retrospect, seems to have him as a prime mover. The UMNO rump, led by the prime minister, Mahathir Mohamed, became the New UMNO or UMNO Baru, and dominated the governing Barisan Nasional (National Front) coalition .

The unanswered question about his past and present is his link with Islamic fundamentalism. He has shown no public inclination to lean that way, but his closeness to the Sudanese fundamentalist Islamic leader, Hassan el Tourabi, and to the group founded by Dr. Ismail Farouki, the Egyptian-born Saudi Arabian professor at Temple University, in Pennsylvania, USA, who was murdered with his wife in Washington in 1985, cast doubts. He remains an eminence grise to the World Assembly of Moslem Youth (WAMY), the Saudi-funded organization, of which he was once secretary-general. His successor in that post is Dr. Abdul Hamid Abou Sulaiman, now the rector of the International Islamic

University in Kuala Lumpur. He also has connections with another Saudi-supported organization, the World Moslem League.

His early life provides little clues about his political career. A mediocre student he entered the University of Malaya on the lowest possible grades, failed a year, immersed in Malay language student politics and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Malay Language and Literature. He formed Yayasan Anda, a self-help school for Moslem dropouts, did spectacularly well, as he enmeshed himself in ABIM and ran with it. It is ABIM that has been his political vehicle. Its Institute of Policy Studies with its Islamic bias is run by a close aide Kamaruddin Jaffar, the former political secretary of Ghafar. ABIM is run by another Dr. Mohamed Nor Manouty while a third Kamaruddin Mat Nor is th WAMY secretary- general.

ABIM, as an Islamic pressure group, attracted support from UMNO, UMNO Baru and PAS members, Malay intellectuals and others. But it split along party lines when he joined UMNO. Those like Ustaz Fadzil Nor and Halim Arshat, the PAS president and secretary-general remain close to him. But those PAS leaders who were not in ABIM—Ustaz Nik Aziz Nik Mat, the mentri besar [chief minister] of Kelantan, for instance—looked at him askance. Many believe that a link between UMNO Baru and PAS should ever come about, is more likely under Anwar than any other UMNO Baru leader. But resistance to this possibility, and his presumed role in it, in UMNO Baru and PAS impedes, whether he likes it or not, UMNO Baru's general acceptance of him as their leader.

He indicates, in private, that he wants to move on from finance, where he has been for three years, perhaps to home affairs. He also would like the three holdouts from the second generation leaders who left in 1987 out of his hair.

Minister Calls Article 'False'

BK2510135493 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 13 Oct 93 p 11

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said in Johor Baru Malaysian journalist M.G.G. Pillai had "sold out the country" by writing false reports about Malaysian leaders and the country in THE JAKARTA POST, Indonesia's leading English-language newspaper.

The Kuala Lumpur-based THE NEW STRAITS TIMES quoted Mohamed as commenting on a recent article by Pillai on the Post's opinion page which, according to him, contained several unsubstantiated allegations about Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba, Finance Minister Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim and the media.

The Malaysian English language newspaper reported yesterday that Pillai's article on the Post on October 6 claimed that Anwar had taken control of the three TV channels, THE NEW STRAITS TIMES and UTUSAN MALAYSIA and that the newspapers and magazines were beholden to Anwar in one way or another.

The TIMES story further runs as follows: The writer also claimed that Ghafar had been "blacked out" by the newspapers and television.

The writer ran down Anwar in the article describing him as a mediocre student who entered Universiti Malaya [University of Malaya] on the lowest possible grades, and a fascist who had converted UMNO [United Malays National Organization], UMNO Youth and the Malaysian Muslim Youth Movement (ABIM) to become his stormtroopers.

Pillai also wrote: "If he has but half of Lee's (former Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew) astuteness, he probably could stay at the top for as long as he wants."

Asked to comment, Mohamed said: "This is tantamount to selling out the country. I have requested Harmoko (Indonesian Information Minister) to ask THE JAKARTA POST not to accept any more reports from him.

"I will call him again tomorrow," he said at a UMNO Johor gathering at Saujana, the Menteri Besar's official residence which was attended by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed on Tuesday.

When contacted by phone in Jakarta, the managing editor of the POST, Vincent Lingga, said yesterday thc article was not an attempt to malign the UMNO politician.

Lingga said he was not aware that the facts were inaccurate.

"They were Pillai's own views and not that of the newspaper," he said.

"It was not a deliberate attempt to malign Anwar. We used the article simply to supplement foreign news stories received via the wire services."

Fifty-eight percent of the POST readers are Indonesians while 42 percent are expatriates. The newspaper has circulation of 38,000.

Lingga said the Kuala Lumpur-based free-lance writer who wrote the article on Anwar had been submitting stories to the POST for the past four years.

The writer touches mostly on topical issues in Malaysia and Southeast Asia and has been known to contribute articles to Thailand's English daily, the BANGKOK POST, as well.

Lingga said since the writer's articles were published over the past four years, the newspaper had occasionally received complaints from readers of partisan or biased views expressed by the writer.

"We would be willing to carry articles to refute the writer's opinions but unfortunately writers knowledgeable on the issues are hard to come by," he said.

ABIM president Mohd Nor Manouty described the article as malicious and written with ill intent.

"It is really bad for a Malaysian to voice his ill feelings towards a national leader in a foreign newspaper."

Mohd Nor said it would have been better if the writer had sold his article to an opposition newspaper rather than have it published overseas.

He also expressed sadness over the writer's reference to ABIM as Anwar's political vehicle.

He said that although Anwar was once an ABIM leader, he was now in a different league.

He reiterated that ABIM was a non-political organization which, however, was concerned about national politics in a healthy manner.

Academics interviewed felt that the article was an act of treachery against the nation.

Tan Sri Awang Had Salleh described the distortion of facts to tarnish national leaders as an irrational act.

"If the writer sincerely had a patriotic spirit and was loyal to leaders, surely an article like this would not have been written for a foreign publication," he said.

Awang Had agreed with columnist Kunta Kinte's views in the BERITA HARIAN today that the writer intended to twist facts or did not truly know the meaning of the word "fascist".

"What is clear is that the writer was irresponsible and is guilty of lying if he cannot substantiate his statements." he said.

ITM [Institute of Technology Mara] lecturer in mass communications Hamdan Adnan who is also Federation of Malaysian Consumer Association president, said acts like these tarnished the political image of the country.

"The claims made in the article are not true. I do not feel the Finance Minister has misused his authority to become a senior leader".

Government Reports on Jan-Sep Inflation Rate

BK2710083293 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0806 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Oct 27 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Malaysia's efforts to maintain price stability continued to bear fruit with the average consumer price index (CPI) for January-September, 1993, increasing by a moderate 3.7 percent compared with an increase of 4.7 percent in the same period last year.

The Jan-Sept 1993 CPI was 112.8 points while the CPI for the first nine months of 1992 was 108.8 and 103.9 points in the same period in 1991, the Statistics Department reported.

For the month of September, the CPI was 113.5 points, which represented a 2.9 percent increase from September 1992's CPI of 110.3 points and higher by 0.1 percent compared with the previous month's CPI of 113.4, the department said in its CPI figures for September, 1993, released here Wednesday.

The 3.7 percent increase in the nine months average CPI over the same period in 1992 was due to increases in all the main groups, with a notable increase registered in beverages and tobacco, which rose 18.4 percent to 134.4 points, transport and communication by 6.2 percent to 114.5, and medical care and health expenses by 5.1 percent to 114.1.

Other increases were gross rent, fuel and power, by 3.7 percent to 110.2, miscellaneous goods and services by 2.7 percent to 108.4, food by 1.7 percent to 113.5, furniture, furnishings and household equipment and operation 1.1 percent to 108.3, clothing and footwear 0.6 percent to 110.0, and recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services 0.4 percent to 106.0.

Cambodia

Quick Settlement With Khmer Rouge Desired

BK2610115593 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT]]l 25 Oct 93

[Unattributed "article": "The Sooner the Problem with the Khmer Rouge Is Settled, the Better"]

[Text] The stance of the Khmer Rouge is now clearly known. Khieu Samphan, the figurehead and one of the absolute leaders of the Khmer Rouge rebels, announced that they may hand the Pailin region under their control over to the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC] if Vietnam returns Cambodian territories to Cambodia. The territories in question here are Cambodian territories that France sliced off and gave to Vietnam during the 1953 Geneva conference on Cochin China. We still remember that it was the day Cambodia won its full independence following the royal crusade of King Norodom Sihanouk.

The use of such an excuse by the Khmer Rouge seems a bit too farfetched and can be taken as an attempt to incite internal resentment and rekindle wars with neighboring countries while they themselves remain indifferent to the RGC's call for them to respond to the conditions set in exchange for the advisory role they have sought in the Royal Government and the integration of their army into the Khmer Royal Armed Forces. In light of this negative stance, we can see that the

Khmer Rouge have no intention whatsoever of taking part in the national reconciliation process under King Sihanouk's royal patronage.

His Excellency Hun Sen, RGC second prime minister, while assessing the future situation said that fighting may be unavoidable. However, according to some political circles, if fighting is unavoidable it would be fighting between, on the one hand, the legitimate government to safeguard the hard-earned peace and, on the other, the outlaw rebels.

Khieu Samphan's declaration has also outraged Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister, to the point that he made the following remarks public: The Khmer Rouge are an endless problem from past to present. But the Khmer Rouge problem is no longer important now. What is important is the reconstruction and development of the nation; that is the priority.

All this means that the RGC has dropped all considerations with the Khmer Rouge and stopped paying any attention to the Khmer Rouge requests or demands. A request made by the Khmer Rouge to the Royal Government of Cambodia is like that of a beggar: One is free to give or not to give him any alms.

A war is inevitable because of the suicide being committed by the Khmer Rouge rebels. That will not be a war that would engender another war but one to eliminate another for the sake of peace. The roundtable scheduled for next November is also overlooked. The efforts to win the Khmer Rouge soldiers back to the national community, however, remain essential while the consolidation of the national armed forces becomes the most urgent task that is vital to the survival of the nation at this time. The process of restructuring the army and returning it back to the system under Sangkum Reas Niyum [Sihanouk's pre-1970 ruling party] may present some weaknesses. To counter that, first, consideration should be paid to reorganizing the army from top to bottom and providing vocational training for the troops. It has been discovered that the allegiance of soldiers forcibly merged into a single national army is still directed toward different political parties to which they belong. Nevertheless, they share the same aspiration: to work for the country.

The United Nations and international community continue to be prepared to help the RGC settle its problem with the Khmer Rouge. In keeping the door open to the Khmer Rouge while adopting a rigorous military posture to implement the Constitution, which stipulates that the Kingdom of Cambodia shall be indivisible, the RGC is taking a very flexible and positive stance. However, one should also understand that any delay would only prolong the suffering and misery of the people and aggravate the destruction of the country. Therefore, the sooner there is a concrete settlement with the Khmer Rouge the better.

Khmer Rouge Blamed for Train Sabotage

BK2510021193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Oct 93 p 6

[Text] ABOUT 20 Cambodians were killed and 30 others seriously injured when the train they were riding in was hit by a land mine between Battambang and Sisophon yesterday, sources said. According to unconfirmed reports from the Thai-Cambodian border, the train which was heading for Sisophon from Battambang was hit by the mine at about 6.10 a.m. when it was about 15 km out of the western town. The locomotive and three cars in the train, which runs parallel to Route No. 5 in the western part of the country were derailed by the impact of the blast, killing 20 people and injuring 30 others, the reports said. The injured Cambodians were rushed to hospitals in Sisophon and Battambang.

Phnom Penh officials has blamed the Khmer Rouge for the sabotage which they said was meant to increase pressure on the government.

Indonesia

Suharto, Alatas on Philippines Peace Talks

BK2610154793 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1211 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Jakarta, Oct 26 (OANA-ANTARA)—President Suharto has expressed the hope that talks now going on here between the Philippine Government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) will be successful and thus help ensure the continuity of the Philippines' development effort.

Suharto commented on the talks in a conversation with Hamid Al Gabid, the visiting secretary general of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) who paid a courtesy call on him Tuesday. Gabid told newsmen after his meeting with the president that Indonesia was also ready to render all possible assistance to the efforts of the two parties to arrive at an agreement for the solution of their dispute.

The talks between the Manila Government and the MNLF in a Jakarta Hotel were officially opened by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas on Monday. The Philippine Government's delegation was led by Manuel T. Yan, a former ambassador to Indonesia, while the MNLF was represented by a panel headed by Professor Nur Misuari.

Gabid said OIC had given its support to the idea of holding the talks in Jakarta after noticing Indonesia's success in the provision of good offices for the settlement of other conflicts, for instance the Cambodian problem, in the past.

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, who accompanied Gabid during his call on President Suharto, said that Manila and the MNLF had actually agreed in their Tripoli Agreement that Manila would grant autonomy rights to 13 provinces in the southern Philippines. But the two

parties had so far stuck to divergent views on how to implement the agreement, he said.

The Philippine Government held on to the view that the autonomy rights would be given after those provinces had taken certain constitutional steps such as the holding of a referendum. But the MNLF camp maintained that such constitutional steps were not necessary as the agreement was binding to only two parties.

"These divergent views could hamper the talks. Anyway, we cannot be sure that the two parties will be able to come to an agreement soon as their dispute is a complicated one", he said.

Murdiono on Suharto-Keating Bilateral Talks

BK2710073193 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Report by Joko Saksono]

[Text] A few minutes ago, President Suharto and Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating held a one-on-one meeting at Merdeka Palace in Jakarta. Following the meeting, Minister and State Secretary Murdiono told reporters that President Suharto and the Australian prime minister are satisfied with the latest developments in bilateral ties and cooperation.

On this occasion, Minister Murdiono also said that President Suharto expressed his highest appreciation for Paul Keating, who tried to convince U.S. President Bill Clinton to better understand Indonesia's position.

Meanwhile, speaking on the issue of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC], the two leaders also agreed to use the APEC forum as an instrument to achieve common development in APEC member countries. The two leaders also held a similar opinion that the development achieved by individual APEC member countries will not be at the expense of those countries who are slow in progress. Responding to reporters, Minister Murdiono said that whether or not President Suharto will attend the APEC meeting in Seattle will be announced later.

Keating Cited on APEC

BK2710075593 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating held a news conference at the State Guest House in Jakarta this afternoon. During the news conference, he talked about the results of his talks with President Suharto and a number of ministers. Prime Minister Paul Keating, 49, spoke mainly of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC], which was initiated by Australia, and the APEC summit scheduled to be held in Seattle next month. Paul Keating attached paramount importance to the forthcoming APEC summit in view of the present global changes. He said APEC is an open regional group, not a closed one. Expressing the hope that President Suharto will attend the APEC summit in Seattle, Paul Keating said a plan to hold an APEC summit in Indonesia in 1994 will eventually depend on the stance of the countries attending the Seattle summit.

Laos

Foreign Minister Returns From UN, Japan, U.S.

BK2210105993 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] On the afternoon of 20 October, His Excellency [H.E.] Somsavat Lengsavat, minister of foreign affairs, and his delegation returned home after attending the 48th annual UN General Assembly session in New York. H.E. Somsavat Lengsavat, as head of the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] Government, delivered a speech at the UN General Assembly on 11 October. Afterwards, he paid a courtesy call on H.E. Butrus-Ghali, UN secretary general. He also met with foreign affairs ministers and heads of government delegations of a number of member countries of the United Nations.

On his way back home, His Excellency the foreign affairs minister also attended the fifth Francophone summit meeting which was held in Mauritius from 16 to 18 October.

Earlier, from 30 September and 2 October, H.E. Somsavat Lengsavat and the delegation also paid a working visit to Japan. During the visit, he held meetings with the minister and deputy minister of foreign affairs as well as with representatives of business organizations of Japan.

H.E. Foreign Affairs Minister Somsavat Lengsavat also visited the United States from 2 to 9 October. During the visit, he met with a number of high-ranking officials concerned of the U.S. Government and House of Representatives. He discussed with the U.S. officials means to promote and improve the bilateral relations and cooperation. He particularly discussed with the U.S. side the issues of U.S. interest—the cooperation in searching for the American personnel missing in action during the war and the narcotics issue.

President Speaks on Rights at Francophone Summit

BK2310122693 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Speech by President Nouhak Phoumsavan at the fifth Francophone summit in Mauritius from 16-18 October; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] On behalf of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] delegation, I would like to express salutations and greetings to the fifth Francophone summit meeting held on Mauritius, the beautiful land which is well-known throughout the world. I take this occasion to express thanks to His Excellency Prime Minister Aneirood Jugnauth and the government and

people of the Republic of Mauritius for the warm welcome and favorable conditions accorded or provided to our LPDR delegation. I particularly would like to express thanks to His Excellency Francois Mitterrand of the French Republic for his successful performance of his duties, with great efforts and rich experiences, as chairman of the fourth Francophone Organization.

Distinguished delegates, the discussion of human rights at this meeting is considered very significant, because the problem of human rights is of common interest. It is a problem which the international community has tried to solve. Though the problem has been acknowledged and looked at through different perspectives, it is the matter of objective laws. In fact, the human rights problem is not a new problem at all. More than 200 years ago, a prominent statement on human rights and citizens' rights to freedom, equality, and fraternity was issued during the great French Revolution in 1789. That statement remains significant today. Human rights are considered a problem that the international community has jointly tried to solve for decades. Following the joint efforts to solve this problem, a statement has been issued by the United Nations. The statement establishes the basis for international cooperation in encouraging and promoting the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms of everyone, regardless of race, sex, language, or religion. There are also other international treaties and documents which establish the conditions and standards for the implementation of human rights.

Our delegation maintains that the problem of human rights is a comprehensive problem that must be respected and implemented correctly in conformity with the practical conditions and specific points in the economic, social, and cultural fields, as well as the customary practices of each country. Developing countries are of the view that to guarantee the implementation of human rights in other fields, first and foremost, the implementation of the rights to existence and development, in particular development in economic, social, and cultural areas, must be guaranteed. When the national economy, education, and culture are developed and when the public health service or the people's material and spiritual life is improved, the effective implementation of the human rights will then be guaranteed. For these reasons, we see that human rights are closely related to the rights to existence and development and that they are inseparable. On the other hand, the respect for and the implementation of citizens rights and political rights must also be based on respect for and implementation of the rights to economic, social, and cultural development.

On the basis of this philosophy, our Lao Government has granted extensive freedom to citizens in earning their living in various fields in accordance with the regulations and laws of the country, which are aimed at promoting and developing socioeconomic development. At the same time, our government has guaranteed the implementation of citizens rights and political rights by enforcing the Constitution and laws and creating an atmosphere of harmony and stability. We have also achieved significant success in carrying out the economic work in accordance with the marketing mechanism in an initial stage. The people's material and spiritual life also has been improved. Noteworthy is that following the approval and implementation of the socioeconomic development plan for the period ending in 2000, the economic and investment atmosphere has become brighter. This has brought about the conviction that Laos will be developed step by step.

Distinguished delegates, under the conditions in which there still remain differences in understanding and views on the human rights problem, I would like to propose an idea that our Francophone organization—whose member countries include one-fourth of all countries in the world and whose members maintain different levels of economic development, different specific points in the cultural field, and different customary practices—should find unified points from the various differences and contribute them to the strength for the cause of establishing and promoting peace, friendship, and cooperation in the international community for the development of all countries, be they big or small, developed or developing. All countries, regardless of the differences in political and social systems or religion, should maintain one common goal: Bring peace and prosperity to the international community. This is the earnest aspiration of various nations throughout the world. For this reason, various countries should support and cooperate with each other, ever more extensively, in upholding and implementing the rights to survival and development so as to develop themselves into advanced and ever more prosperous countries. Thank you.

SRV Party Control Committee Delegation Departs

BK2210072993 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] At noon on 21 October, a technical delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Control Committee led by Nguyen Duc Trieu, member of the CPV Central Committee and of the Control Committee, left Vientiane for home after 14-day visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR].

During the visit, the SRV delegation paid a courtesy call on Maichantan Sengmani, Political Bureau member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee, chairman of the Control Committee of the Party Central Committee, and chief of the central-level ad hoc committee in charge of opposing and preventing corruption. It discussed and exchanged experiences with the Lao side on the implementation of the party and state control work and the opposition and obstruction to corrupt practices in Laos and Vietnam. In addition, the delegation visited Champassak, Savannakhet, and Vientiane provinces. It met and exchanged views with party and administrative committees as well as with the control committees of the provinces it visited. During the

visit to those provinces, it also visited some production establishments, tourist places, and places of historic significance.

Visiting SRV Prosecution Team Holds Talks

BK2610103393 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The delegations of the People's Judiciary Institute of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and of the Supreme People's Prosecution Institute of the SRV held a consultative meeting to exchange lessons on judiciary work in Vientiane this morning. At the meeting, the two sides informed each other of their respective operations with a view to exchanging technical lessons, aimed at more effectively strengthening the relations and cooperation between the two institutes.

Leading the Lao delegation at the meeting was Chief Prosecutor Phai Oula and the Vietnamese side (Le Quang Dao), chief prosecutor of the SRV, who is leading his delegation in paying a visit to Laos beginning 24 October.

SRV Military Delegation Arrives for Visit

BK2710060193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 2330 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] At the invitation of the Lao People's Army [LPA] General Political Department, the delegation of the General Political Department of the Vietnamese People's Army [VPA] headed by Lieutenant General [Lt. Gen.] Le Kha Phieu, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Commitee and chief of the VPA General Political Department, arrived in Vientiane yesterday morning to pay a friendship visit to Laos and to exchange lessons with the LPA General Political Department.

A warm welcoming ceremony for the delegation was held at the Latsavong Hotel in the presence of Lt. Gen. Siphon Phalikhan, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, deputy minister of national defense, and chief of the LPA General Political Department; all deputy chiefs of the department; chiefs of all divisions and offices in the department; and a number of high- and medium-ranking military officers attached to the department. Comrade Bui Van Thanh, SRV ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, and Comrade Colonel Do Quan Hoa, Vietnamese military attache to Laos, were also on hand to welcome the delegation.

The delegation arrived yesterday morning and proceeded to lay a wreath at the Monument of Revolutionary Combatants. The LPA General Political Department hosted a grand reception at the Latsavong Hotel in honor of the delegation in the evening of the same day.

The VPA General Political Department delegation will spend one week on a working visit in our country. They will meet and exchange views with Lao counterparts in the LPA General Political Department and all divisions in the department. It is scheduled to visit some military garrisons, cultural establishments, and construction sites in Vientiane Municipality and Vietnam Province and to attend a boat race held on the occasion of the end of the Buddhist Lent at the Tha Vat Chan pier.

Saman Vi-gnaket Receives Australian House Group

BK2610112793 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Yesterday afternoon in Vientiane, Saman Vi-gnaket, chairman of the National Assembly, received a courtesy call from the Australian parliamentary delegation headed by Jim McKiernan, member of the Australia Parliament, which is paying an official visit to Laos from 24 to 29 October.

Hailing the visit to Laos by the Australian parliamentary delegation, the National Assembly chairman said that the visit constituted a good opportunity for the two parliamentary organizations to exchange lessons on their respective work, thus serving to further strengthen the relations and cooperation between the two institutions and between the governments and peoples of Laos and Australia.

Agriculture Minister Opens National Conference

BK2310094393 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] The national conference on agricultural and forestry work was officially opened at the meeting hall of the Forestry Department in Vientiane on the morning of 18 October. The opening ceremony was chaired by Sisavat Keobounphan, minister of agriculture and forestry, and attended by chief and deputy chiefs of the department along with chiefs and deputy chiefs of agricultural and forestry services from throughout the country. The conference was attended by 50 technical cadres attached to the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry. The main purposes of the conference are to review the implementation of the production development plan for 1993 and to set forth direction and plan on the agricultural and forestry work for 1994.

In his opening speech, Minister Sisavat Keobounphan, as chairman of the conference, clearly and comprehensively pointed to the agricultural production movement and called for the stepping up of the movement to produce goods. He also encouraged an investment in this field in order to develop rural areas and to lead the people in mountainous areas to put an end to the slash-and-burn cultivation in accordance with the plan and policy of the government. The minister also noted the main direction for making investment and gave suggestions on methods of implementing the direction in order to promote the agricultural and forestry production. He said: The agricultural and forestry production work must be simultaneously carried out along with the

expansion of irrigation work, the establishment of small hydropower projects, and the production of goods in towns throughout the country. All these must be done through the use of capitals and potential strength of the nation with a view to striving to settle the food grain problem. Regarding this, reproduction must be organized as the 1993-94 dry-season production must be enthusiastically carried out throughout the country.

Philippines

Official on Implementation of Copyright Rules

BK2410080193 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 21 Oct 93 p 17

[Text] Cable TV system operators who infringe copyright through unauthorized retransmission of copyrighted works will be punished with a fine of up to P100,000.00 [Philippine pesos] plus one-year imprisonment.

This will be one of the results of the Philippines' accession to the 1971 Paris Act of the Bern Convention which the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board approved yesterday.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary and NEDA Director General Cielito F. Habito explained that the 1971 Paris Act of the Bern Convention is an international agreement on the protection of a country's intellectual property.

Habito said that it is vital for the Philippines to respect the intellectual property rights of other countries in order to attract more foreign investments and accelerate technological development. He said that accession to the Paris Act would mean the Philippines being taken out of the United States' "special 301" priority watch list which is a list of countries that are notorious for intellectual property rights violations.

Aside from the measures against illegal video retransmissions, the Philippine government has also taken steps to protect intellectual property rights through improvements in its copyright, trademark, and patent laws.

With regard to copyright laws, the government has implemented a resolution concerning the reprinting of books which narrows the parameters for the compulsory licensing of textbooks by raising the threshold price. The resolution also provides a more realistic timetable for negotiating reprinting rights with the publishers.

Amendments have also been made to Philippine copyright laws to ensure intellectual property rights in the areas of sound recordings and computer software, among others.

Sound recordings will be given the same protection as those for other copyrighted works including a term of at least 50 years from the date of first fixation and publication. The producers of sound recordings have exclusive rights to authorize or prohibit the rental of original copies of sound recordings.

On computer software, authors of computer programs have the sole right to authorize or prohibit the rental to the public, for purposes of direct or indirect commercial advantage, of the original copies of protected sound recordings.

With respect to trademarks, Habito said the Philippine government is committed to provide adequate and effective protection for owners of trademarks. To this end, amendments to the trademark law have been made including the provision of protection for internationally well-known marks. This means that an internationally well-known mark shall not be denied protection because of lack of use or registration in the Philippines.

On patents, the government, in considering that amendments will [be] made on its current patent laws, will not alter the requirements on patentability already embodied in its existing law.

A summary of the steps the Philippine government has taken for the protection of intellectual property was sent by Trade Secretary Rizalino S. Navarro to U.S. Trade Representative Michael Kantor.

In his letter to Ambassador Kantor, Secretary Navarro stressed that the Philippines recognizes the importance of strongly protecting intellectual property and how this advances national interests by promoting creative and innovative activity as well as improving the conditions for investment, trade, and technological development.

MPEAA Lauds Move on Intellectual Property

BK2710080193 Quezon City MALAYA in English 25 Oct 93 p 13

[Text] The government's decision to concur with the international agreement on the protection of intellectual property was lauded by the Motion Picture Export Association of America (MPEAA) yesterday.

The decision to become a party to an international agreement on the protection of intellectual property as embodied in the 1971 Paris Act of the Bern Convention was approved Wednesday by the National Economic Development Authority [NEDA].

NEDA hopes the move would help delist the country from the U.S. "Special 301" priority watchlist, a roster of countries notorious for intellectual rights violations.

MPEAA Manila representative Elmer San Pascual said the Philippines' accession to the agreement will encourage more American movie producers to establish a stronger market presence in the country.

NEDA Director-General Cielito Habito said Wednesday it is vital for the Philippines to respect the intellectual

property rights of other countries to attract more foreign investments and accelerate technological development.

"Our accession to the Paris Act would mean the Philippines being taken out of the U.S. 'Special 301' priority watchlist of countries that are notorious for intellectual property rights violations," Habito said.

San Pascual commended the Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB) headed by chairman Javier Carbonell for spearheading the campaign to enforce the copyright law and to eradicate video film and laser disc piracy nationwide.

He said the MPEAA has been especially appreciative of VRB's industry clean-up drive which was triggered by mounting reports of rampant film piracy involving several video and laser disc rental shopowners who are allegedly being used as commercial outlets by "parallel importers," a euphemism for smugglers.

He explained the sale or renting out of a video or laser disc copy "not bearing the official VRB regulatory sticker" is piracy that is punishable by law.

A VRB sticker contains the rating and classification of the intellectual work in video or laser disc and signifies VRB's seal of approval for its commercial exploitation, such as renting out.

San Pascual explained that when a person buys a laser disc from the United States or any other territory other than the Philippines, "this is intended for his personal use only and does not give him the right to rent it out for a profit."

"This is because the film producer has the exclusive rights to sell and distribute his cinematographic work in the Philippines, and these rights, which are passed onto the filmmaker's duly licensed distributor here, are protected by the copyright law under Presidential Decree 49," he pointed out.

He also clarified that contrary to claims by some quarters, the local video and laser disc distributors have been duly licensed and authorized by American moviemakers in a package deal that gave the former the exclusive rights over the latter's film productions.

Enrile: New Information on Aquino Assassination

BK2510094793 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 22 Oct 93 p 16

[by Joel Canuday]

[Text] Davao City—Cagayan Rep. [Representative] Juan Ponce Enrile said he has information on the killing of Sen. [Senator] Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. which has never come out in the open and which could help unmask the mastermind. But Enrile said he would reveal this information only to an independent body which he proposed to be formed to reinvestigate the killing.

"They can ask any question under the sun about it. There is certain information that I know that have never been asked of me," Enrile said during a press conference here. "Now that we are in a free air ... it's time to look into this and find out the truth," said Enrile, who was defense minister of the Marcos regime at the time of the assassination.

EC Official: Progress Toward Economic Recovery

BK2510123793 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 22 Oct 93 pp 1, 6

[By Genevieve I. Soledad]

[Text] The Philippines is inching its way towards economic recovery, said Alistair MacDonald, Philippine-based counsellor to the Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities, in a meeting with media yesterday.

Mr. MacDonald said government's ongoing reforms are the sure cure needed to revive the country's weak economy.

"A lot of things are in place like liberalization and the continuing effort to increase tax revenues. Even your energy sector from all indications is beginning to improve," he said.

Government deregulated the foreign exchange market last year and liberalized most of the country's domestic market through the imposition of the tariff restructuring program or Executive Order 470.

Finance officials have also been trying to narrow the budgetary deficit by going after big tax evaders, and power outages have since been reduced from eight hours in the summer to only four hours.

Although the country cannot hope to achieve a phenomenal 10 percent growth rate in gross national product (GNP), he said even a 5 percent increase in GNP is helpful.

"If the Philippines only achieved a 5 percent growth rate, it would still be so much better than the long-term average growth rate that the country achieved during the last 10 to 12 years," said Mr. MacDonald.

For the first semester of this year, the country's GNP went up by only 1.8 percent. Government targets a GNP growth of 2.5 percent this year, up from last year's 1 percent growth. For 1994, the growth target is set at 6.5 percent although there are now talks this could be scaled down to 4.5 percent.

Mr. MacDonald said the country's stronger economic performance will likely draw more European investors over the next few years. He said, however, that China and Vietnam will be catching more of these European investments than the Philippines.

"Maybe, it's because they have no infrastructure problems," said Mr. MacDonald, adding that investors might also be drawn to Vietnam because of the novelty of investing in a country that has come out of several years of war.

He also quashed hopes raised by local economic leaders that the country's skilled and educated manpower will be enough to lure foreign investors. "This is only a single element," he said.

He said even sweeteners like tax breaks do not weigh heavily on the minds of foreign businessmen.

"Incentives like tax breaks and so on are actually less important than factors like power, water, availability of labor, and access to capital," he said.

Meanwhile, the EC gave the ASEAN a 7.5 million ECU (P [Philippine pesos] 245 million) grant for the development of patent protection.

Mr. MacDonald said the EC's choice of the ASEAN as a recipient of the grant does not mean the region is a haven for intellectual property rights (IPR) violators.

The issue of IPR protection has long been a sore point between developed and underdeveloped countries. The Philippines, for example, nearly suffered economic sanctions from the United States because of its allegedly high level of IPR violations.

Muslim Autonomy Reportedly Tops Talks Agenda

BK2710060793 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] The Philippine Government has just opened peace talks with Islamic Moro guerrillas on Tuesday with the Muslim rebels saying they would insist on full autonomy for 13 provinces on and around the southern island of Mindanao. Both sides said they hope to make progress at the talks, their first formal meeting since the 1970's. But Nur Misuari, leader of the Moro National Liberation Front or MNLF, said he was adamant on the issue of autonomy. Short of full autonomy for the south, there will be no guarantee that we can stabilize the political situation in the south, he said in an interview shortly before the talks began. The MNLF has been waging a separatist war for the past two decades, but since a short-lived cease-fire in 1986, fighting has been limited to occasional skirmishes. At least 50,000 people died in the height of the conflict in the 1970's.

The MNLF is the largest of the three Muslim factions operating in the Philippines' southern provinces but Manila is fighting a much larger communist insurgency throughout much of the country.

The head of the Philippine delegation, former Ambassador Manuel Yan, said the government was determined to explore every avenue to achieve peace and was hopeful it could reach some kind of agreement at the talks. We should be able to reach substantial agreement, that's what we have come here for, he said over the telephone. The Philippines hopes to include the turbulent south in a growth triangle straddling Malaysia's eastern island and part of Indonesia. Indonesia is hosting, but not brokering the talks.

The Philippine Government and the rebels remain divided over how much territory should be included in any autonomous region. In a government-led plebiscite in 1989, only four of the 13 provinces voted to join an autonomous region. The MNLF has rejected both the plebiscite and the elections for a governor held earlier this year, that returned an ally of President Ramos. Instead, Misuari said he would demand full implementation of the 1976 Tripoli Agreement which promised Muslim self-rule for all 13 provinces and some five million Muslims. Deadlock remains over what constitutes implementation of the accord which calls for a constitutional process. The government argues that the plebiscite fulfilled this condition, while the MNLF demands that all the provinces be declared autonomous through executive action. Misuari said he would insist on this point. The talks, which follow preliminary meetings in Libya last year and Indonesia in April, have no time limit.

Another contentious issue is how to integrate the MNLF guerrilla force of about 15,000 into the national armed forces. What defense, finance, judicial, and educational systems any resulting autonomous region would have is also unresolved. It is our duty to consolidate the peace here, but, of course, it is understood that we do not agree to just any kind of peace. It must be an honorable, dignified peace in accord with the fundamental rights of our people, Misuari said.

RAM: Rebels To Focus on Food Production

BK2510092993 Quezon City PTV-4 Television Network in Tagalog 0500 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The Reform the Armed Forces Movement [RAM] will focus on food production instead of politics.

This was revealed by RAM leaders Gregorio Honasan and Edgardo Abenina, in support of President Fidel Ramos' programs for economic development. RAM has designated Taytay, Rizal as the site of its pilot project. Abenina said that the country will progress not by armed conflict but through unity. He added that through such ventures we can be assured of sufficient food supplies in the future.

CPP Head Lashes Out at Dissenting Communists

BK2410110093 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 20 Oct 93 pp 1, 6

[By Melo M. Acuna]

[Text] Legazpi City—Jose Maria Sison, leader of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), charged yesterday that groups that had broken away from the

CPP had been influenced by the government's military intelligence and psychological warfare experts and are now sowing confusion and dissent in the underground movement.

Interviewed here via overseas telephone from his base at Utrecht, Netherlands, Sison said, "The revisionists who sow dissent and confusion in the revolutionary movement are small-time criminals who are motivated by dictates of the government's military intelligence and psychological warfare experts."

Sison was interviewed over DWGW IBC's [Radio Station DWGW; Intercontinental Broadcasting Corporation's] "Bantay Gabi" [Night Watch] program late Monday night.

He said Arturo Tabara, known as Victor del Mar of the Visayas Command, has long ceased to be a member of the CPP.

"Tabara, Romulo Kintanar, Filemon Lagman, and others have ceased to be part of the CPP because, if we take a closer look at their backgrounds and responsibilities in the movement, particularly the Communist Party of the Philippines, National Democratic Front [NDF], and New People's Army [NPA], it is clear they now oppose the revolutionary leadership and its ideals as they allow themselves to be used by the Ramos administration," Sison said.

He said he had received information about a Ramos administration plan to form a "bogus Communist Party."

"This Kintanar, who chided Luis Jalandoni and other foreign-based communist leaders, while he claims to be 'good' as he is in the Philippines, has long left prison but remained in Manila doing business."

"His funds came from party sources he kept and partly from proceeds of holdups, despite his supposed role as NPA leader in the countryside," Sison said.

He said Kintanar has a computer shop, a customs brokerage firm and trucking company, and a furniture business.

He accused Joel Rocamora of being an agent of the Bureau of Foreign Intelligence in the State Department of the United States.

Asked about the prospects of the second round of exploratory talks between the Philippine government and the NDF, Sison said they learned of Sen. Rodolfo Biazon's statement not to pursue talks with Jalandoni in favor of negotiations with the so-called breakaway groups.

"I already said it is counter-productive to use such pressure on the NDF," Sison said as he called for the withdrawal of Executive Order No. 125 which makes the Philippine Constitution of 1987 a guide for the forthcoming negotiations.

"The NDF has its own constitution and its guide in establishing a people's government, aside from its programs and we will not succumb to the Philippine government's demand to use the 1987 Constitution," Sison said.

Roundup of Rebel Activities for 16-22 Oct

BK2610043593

[Editorial Report] The following is a roundup of reports of Philippine rebel activities from Philippine media monitored by Bangkok Bureau between 16 and 22 October. Source information is given in parenthesis at the end of each item.

16-18 October

No fileworthy items monitored.

19 October

Thirteen Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] rebels surrendered their armalite rifles yesterday to Brigadier General Rene Dado, commanding general of the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Civil Relations Service. The rebel returnees were formerly under the command of MNLF Commander Pagayawan of Lanao del Sur. According to the surrenderees, many of their fellow rebels want to surrender to live peacefully. (Quezon City GMA 7 Radio TV Network in Tagalog 0930 GMT)

20 October

Two members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Units, who also worked as intelligence operatives of the Philippine Army, were killed by New People's Army rebels in barangays [village] Magsaysay, Poblacion, and Villa Aurora, Lopez town, Quezon, according to military reports. (Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English p 12)

21 October

The Army reported the surrender to government authorities in northeastern Mindanao of a member of the Minda force of the Southern Regional Party Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army and eight communist armed regulars due to hardship in the mountains. They vowed to support the Ramos peace and economic program in the southern Philippines. The surrenderees also turned over assorted weapons and ammunition. (Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English p B-24)

22 October

No fileworthy items monitored.

Thailand

Spokesman Reaffirms Stance on Workers in Libya

BK2710014193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Oct 93 p 3

[Text] Thailand yesterday emphasised that it had taken action against three Thai companies said by the United States to be linked to the production of chemical weapons in Libya.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Sakthip Krairoek said the Thai Government stood against the production of chemical weapons and was a party to the treaty signed in January this year that banned such production. Thailand had never supported and in fact prohibited the placement of Thai workers in chemical weapons factories, he said.

The spokesman made the statements following reports, attributed to the New York Times, that Thai companies are building a series of tunnels in Libya that are to be used in the production and storage of chemical weapons.

According to AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, the daily quoted US and Thai officials in Bangkok as saying that at least three Thai companies were linked to the Tarhuna project 64 kilometres southeast of Tripoli. The report identified the companies as W & M Co and two job placement agencies that supply Thai workers to foreign construction sites.

According to the report, the owner of W & M Co was quickly released after being arrested last week, and said in an interview that he would continue doing business in Libya.

Mr Sakthip said Thailand had arrested the owner of W & M Co on October 14 on charges of illegal placement of workers. Four other people were arrested on October 1 at another job placement agency on the same charge, while a third job placement agency had its operating licence withdrawn on September 22. The three companies were responsible for sending 200 Thai workers to Libya.

The ministry spokesman noted that Deputy Premier Amnuai Wirawan had spelled out Thailand's stand against chemical weapons production during a meeting with US Vice-President Al Gore on October 8.

Netherlands Prime Minister on Official Visit

BK2610013193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Oct 93 p A2

[Text] The Dutch government has agreed to help Thailand negotiate with its European counterparts on three key Thai products—tuna, frozen chicken and tapioca, said Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak yesterday. The Hague also agreed to help Thailand in developing packaging for tapioca products to increase its value in the face of its low price caused by agricultural reforms in the European Community (EC). Suphachai was addressing reporters after joining a meeting between Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and his visiting Dutch counterpart Ruud Lubbers at Government House.

Suphachai also chaired the meeting which followed between both delegations to review bilateral economic relations.

The Dutch government also agreed that the EC's six per cent tax levied on tapioca imports should be revoked and that the purchasing contract should be reviewed, according to Suphachai. The Netherlands was EC's biggest importing partner and acted as the EC's middleman for Thai tapioca.

The deputy prime minister said the Dutch were of the view that canned tuna's import quota to EC states should be increased. The negotiation on this question should not enter the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs round of multilateral talks. Thailand's canned tuna has been banned from European countries on the ground that the product is contaminated.

Even though the EC's examination of the tuna proved to be satisfactory, some countries namely Britain and Ireland, continued to maintain the ban.

In return, the Dutch side also asked the Thai government to open the finance market for Dutch banks operating in Thailand and help expand Holland's KLM airline route through Thailand to Vietnam, said Suphachai.

Regarding the Hague's request for more financial liberalization Suphachai said he told the Dutch that the government was in the initial stages, and would be more open to fulfil its obligation once the Gatt round's financial sector negotiations were concluded.

Lubbers is on a two-day official visit to Thailand in order to boost bilateral economic cooperation. The Netherlands is Thailand's third largest EC trading partner after Germany and Britain, and the EC's biggest investor here. Bilateral trade has been on the increase.

Last year's trade volume amounted to more than US$1,500 million in favour of Thailand.

Thai exports also included canned seafood, readymade clothes and shoes.

The imports were chemical products, electrically-operated machinery and dairy products.

Chuan yesterday urged Dutch businessmen to invest more in the fields of irrigation, hydraulic engineering, environment-related technology and infrastructure construction. He cited the many incentives provided by the government, including tax privileges for foreign investors and the streamlining of customs procedures. He also called on the Dutch to cooperate with their Thai counterparts and use business facilities in Thailand to expand their activities to the Indochinese states of Laos and Vietnam.

Speaking at a reception dinner in honour of Lubbers, Chuan said the positive developments taking place in the Southeast Asian region towards regional prosperity, including the creation of the Asean Free Trade Area were factors conducive for investment.

Croatian Deputy Minister Arrives for Visit

BK2610034893 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Croatian Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Ivo Sanader is now on a three-day visit to Thailand to promote diplomatic and trade relations between the two countries. He is accompanied by his senior adviser and the vice president of Croatia's Chamber of Commerce. The Croatian deputy foreign minister will hold consultations with a high-level delegation of the Thai Chamber of Commerce at 11 a.m. this morning. Later in the afternoon, he will meet Deputy Commerce Minister Chaloemphon Sanitwongchai for trade talks.

Tomorrow, the deputy Croatian deputy foreign minister will meet Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan and visit the exhibition hall of the Department of Export Promotion. Thailand and Croatia established diplomatic relations in September last year.

SRV Freezes Fishing Licenses Despite Contracts

BK2610021593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Oct 93 p 18

[Text] Citing abuse, involvement in smuggling of contraband and illegal immigrants, Vietnam's Ministry of Aquatic Resources has frozen licences for Thai companies to fish in Vietnamese waters despite their joint venture contracts with state enterprises.

This was revealed in a report carried by the official SAIGON GIAI PHONG (Liberation) newspaper published by the Ho Chi Minh City authorities. Well-placed sources in Ho Chi Minh City reached by BUSINESS POST yesterday confirmed the report.

Affected by this decision will be Thai Pochana which has been negotiating a joint venture with stateowned SOWES Food Company for more than two years; Minh-Thai, a joint venture between Minh Hai province (Vietnam's southernmost province) and Bangkok-based Thepnarong; and Sirichai-Vung Tau, according to the newspaper.

The Vietnamese government will not grant new fishing licences or extend licences held by these companies.

Vietnam pledged to come up with measures "to satisfactorily settle the interests of the partners in the joint ventures and the abuse of joint ventures in violating Vietnam's sovereignty and illegally exploiting Vietnam's natural resources," the newspaper said.

Without giving names, the Vietnamese authorities alleged that "some fishing vessels" were unlicensed to operate in designated areas. Others "smuggled goods or illegal immigrants into Vietnam."

A well-informed source in Ho Chi Minh City claimed a Thai company's involvement in bringing Chinese fishing vessels to roam the sea off Vietnam's northern coast, the most sensitive offences in the eyes of the Vietnamese authorities.

Highly-placed sources in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City have long voiced concern over some Thai-flagged fishing vessels smuggling consumer goods into Vietnam, also another serious offence as Vietnam considered smuggling a threat to its domestic economic development.

The Ministry of Aquatic Resources also cited "ineffective productivity" in the operation of Thai vessels, whereby eight months of operation this year produced 2,600 tonnes in catches, 1,600 of which were exported.

As a result, the ministry has withdrawn licences for 12 Thai vessels, while some companies have voluntarily stopped operations.

Executives of these Thai companies, mostly headquartered in Ho Chi Minh City, could not be reached for comment yesterday. Fisheries is a long-standing problem in Thai-Vietnamese relations.

Thailand has rejected Vietnam's call for "establishment of order at sea", meaning no more encroachment by Thai vessels in areas where both countries' claims overlap, as a condition for a joint fisheries agreement. So far, only one Thai company, Crescendo, is operating successfully under a joint research programme off the northern coast of Haiphong and the central coast of Nha Trang.

Nine Firms Selected To Fish in Burmese Waters

BK2110090993 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Plotprasop Suratsawadi, director general of the Fishery Department, told reporters during an interview that nine fishing firms out of eleven have been selected by his department to take part in joint fishing ventures with Burma.

Asked about a report that the Burmese Government plans to give full fishing concessions to Singapore, the director general said that was very unlikely. However, if the report is true, Singapore will certainly sell all fishing contracts to Thailand because Singapore has no expertise in fishing operations. He warned Thai fishing companies or fishing trawlers against buying permits to fish in Burmese territorial waters from companies that used to have joint fishing ventures with Burma because such a practice was against official regulations, adding they will lose both time and money. He said the Fishery Department in collaboration with the Foreign Ministry has employed strict measures to control the operations of

fishing firms and trawlers engaged in joint fishing ventures with Burma and will not hesitate to take legal action against violators of the regulations.

Group of 139 Mon Refugees Returns to Burma

BK2610015793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Oct 93 p 6

[Text] Kanchanaburi—A total of 139 Mon refugees returned to Burma two weeks ago at the request of Thai authorities who wanted to clear a site for the resettlement of some 8,000 Mons now living in the Loh Loe Camp in Sangkhla Buri District. A source in the refugee camp said the returnees were in the advance team taking part in a pilot project to resettle Burmese refugees in their homeland.

The group has gone to a place called Halockhani in Burma to clear the new site for the other refugees who are expected to leave Loh Loe Camp by January next year. Thai authorities involved in the project include those from the Kanchanaburi-based 9th Infantry Division, National Security Council and local administration officials. The authorities have urged the Mon refugees to return home.

At a meeting on September 17, between the Mon National Relief Committee headed by its chairman, Nai Tin Aung, and Thai authorities, in Sangkhla Buri District, it was agreed that the Mon refugees at Loh Loe Camp are to be sent home.

The source said Thailand wants to please the Burmese military and the resettlement of the Mon refugees would facilitate the laying of a gas pipeline funded by the Petroleum Authority of Thailand from the coastal town of Amherst in Burma to Kanchanaburi.

Chinnawat To Make Laos Center for Broadcasting

BK2710004793 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Oct 93 p B1

[Text] The Chinnawat Group has implemented a plan to make Laos the centre for its broadcasting business following a tightening of controls in Thailand. The company has won a package deal from the Loatian government to develop six telecom and broadcasting projects in the country over 15 years. One of them is the establishment of a satellite earth station (standard B).

Chinnawat Group President Bunkli Plangsiri said the satellite earth station in Laos will be used as Chinnawat's base for its broadcasting and telecom expansion in the future.

Transport and Communications Ministry has barred it from being the carrier of telecom and broadcasting services using its Thaicom satellite for fear that the company would monopolize the satellite services both from the air and on the ground in the country.

Malaysia Urged To Help With Muslim South

BK2510015993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Oct 93 p 4

[Editorial: "More Help From Malaysia, Please"]

[Text] MALAYSIA'S rejection of Thailand's proposal to consider all forms of terrorism against either country a common threat in the same way the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) has been treated is regrettable if understandable. The rejection at a border meeting in Bangkok earlier this month is understandable because, given the Islamic links between the Malays and the Muslim terrorists in southern Thailand the suggested amendment to the border treaty would be politically sensitive for Malaysia's ruling party. The pledge by Kuala Lumpur to deny sanctuary to terrorists from Thailand may provide consolation but for the moment it remains no more than a pledge. We have yet to see the policy carried out in practice.

Taking a look back at the long history of bloody struggle by Thailand and Malaysia against the guerrillas of the outlawed CPM, many Thais and Malaysians would agree that the Thai side was as committed to the struggle as were our Malaysian counterparts, even though the CPM represented essentially a Malaysian security problem. Yet thanks to the spirit of cooperation and good neighbourly relations successive Thai governments treated the CPM as a common enemy, a policy enshrined in the border treaty first signed in 1965 and subsequently twice amended.

Thai forces were employed to suppress the guerrillas. This resulted in a number of Thais being killed or maimed in a war which essentially was not ours. Yet there were no complaints from the victims or their loved ones. And when the war against the CPM was won in 1989, Thailand was as elated and relieved as were our Malaysian friends. We saw the elimination of a security threat to a neighbour as a boon to ourselves as much as to our neighbour.

While efforts were being made over the decades to neutralise the CPM, Thai forces were fighting another war—but without cooperation or help from their Malaysian counterparts. The war we have been fighting alone is against various ragtag terrorist gangs under the umbrella organisations of the Pattani United Liberation Organisation and the Barisan Revolusi Nasional [National Revolutionary Front]. A major obstacle that has so far made it impossible to crush the terrorists is the well-known secret that the terrorists can always find sanctuary on the other side of the border, where they can recover, regroup or resupply.

It is also well-known that certain Muslim fundamentalist politicians in northern Malaysia have openly supported the terrorist gangs from southern Thailand and warmly embraced their secessionist cause. This makes Thailand's war against separatism more than the purely internal problem that Kuala Lumpur steadfastly tries to

make out in order to justify its inaction and refusal to amend the border treaty. If someone hits the head of a neighbour and then escapes into the house next door where he is warmly greeted and given hiding, it is unlikely to be regarded as a friendly gesture by the neighbour.

Given the existing terrorist menace and the ease with which the terrorists cross the border at will to seek sanctuary and support, no sensible Thai or foreign investor will put their money into development projects in the southernmost provinces while they risk being harassed. Unless this threat is eliminated no development is possible, including the ambitious Growth Triangle encompassing southern Thailand, northern Malaysia and parts of Indonesia. It is high time Kuala Lumpur demonstrated its sincerity and cooperated with Thailand to remove this security threat for the mutual benefit of both countries.

Minister Clarifies Dismissal of Police Chief

BK2610145593 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Interior Minister General Chawalit Yongchaiyut held a briefing at the ministry at 0715 today about the action taken against Police General Sawat Amonwiwat. He said the action taken was sincere and within the legal framework, but did not constitute persecution. He said the action taken was meant to preserve the monarchy, the interest of the general public, and that of the Police Department. He accepted all responsibility. The interior minister said he will not tolerate any breach of principles. He said he will not let anything happen that could damage the nation's highest institution—that is the first point in the government's policy statement.

He said it is improper for him to keep talking about feelings of loyalty, saying that this should be kept in one's heart and should be expressed through deeds. However, even though he holds such an attitude, other people have accused him of making confusing statements. He said that he also did not want to outwardly comment on the shortcomings in the department under his supervision. He therefore tried to handle the matter quietly by following appropriate procedures to smoothly settle the problem.

He said that the Police Department's Order No. 1072/1993 banning the import of the HONOLULU ADVERTISER is a serious matter. If the person in charge failed to take disciplinary or legal action on it, that would mean the person had been negligent in his duties. Gen. Chawalit said he therefore appointed an investigation committee and ordered the dismissal of Pol. Gen. Sawat Amonwiwat since the latter's continued presence in the Police Department could be damaging to the administration, constitute an obstacle to the investigation, and even create confusion blocking a prompt conclusion of the probe. The interior minister said that he gave a four-point policy to the acting police director, Police General Prathin Santipraphop, to follow, and this reflects the intention of the government and the Interior Ministry.

He said what happened over the past week constitutes a loss to everyone, especially to society, adding that everyone should now cooperate to make greater efforts to make the Police Department dependable for the public. He expressed confidence that policemen will achieve this goal under the leadership of the acting police chief and with a sense of duty to all policemen.

The interior minister said that the move taken by MP's seeking an urgent motion against him was an act of good faith because it would allow an explanation of the truth about the case involving Pol. Gen. Sawat Amonwiwat. Although he felt uneasy talking about the matter once again, the interior minister said he would try to get the motion on the agenda of the House of Representatives on 28 October.

Tariff Cut Sought To Increase Exports

BK2310024893 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Oct 93 p B14

[Text] The Commerce Ministry is planning to increase next year's export target to Bt1 trillion. It aims to achieve this target by asking the Finance Ministry and the Customs Code Committee to reduce tariffs.

Chaloemphon Sanithwongchai, deputy commerce minister, said a reduction in tariffs would help increase exports and make trading partners reduce their import tariffs in exchange. But the import tariff reduction plan has to be discussed with the economic sectors concerned, the Finance Ministry and the Customs Code Committee, regarding each product description and each tariff rate.

Thailand recently agreed to cut tariff rates which are higher than 30 per cent to the 30-per cent level in accordance with the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) agreement.

Chaloemphon said the country's exports in the first nine months of the year are estimated to have reached Bt662 billion, 8.8 per cent above the same penod last year. This is close to the target of Bt9 16 billion set for the entire year, which is 11.1 per cent higher than the previous year.

The major products showing higher export volumes are garments (up 5.9 per cent), computers and components (12.3 per cent), jewellery and ornaments (16.5 per cent), frozen shrimp (8.8 per cent), integrated circuits (24.3 per cent) natural rubber (18.4 per cent), and shoes and parts (10.3 per cent). But rice exports fell 16.4 per cent compared to the same period last year, and rice prices on the world market have fallen to their lowest levels in five years.

The export of tapioca product plunged 12.2 per cent due to the lowering of European Community (EC) subsidies under the reform of their Common Agricultural Policy.

which brought the price of EC grains down to a level competitive with Thai tapioca. (Grains can be used instead of tapioca by feed mills.)

The export of canned seafood dropped 5.1 per cent due to the impact of the EC's import quotas for canned tuna and the strict inspection policy of the United States.

Frozen chicken exports fell by 16.1 per cent, especially in the major markets such as Japan and EC, because Thai frozen chicken prices were higher than China's and Brazil's.

Chaloemphon added that in the first nine months, the trade deficit amounted to Bt188.7 billion, up 19.4 per cent. The trade deficit with Japan alone amounted to Bt150 billion. For the first time Thailand registered a trade deficit with the EC of Bt6 billion, due to the economic recession in Europe and lower demand for Thai products.

Minister Stresses Need To Restructure Economy

BK2510055893 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Minister to the Prime Minister's Office Sawit Phothiwihok stresses the need for Thailand to adjust its economic structure so that the country can effectively compete in the world market. Talking about directions for industrial development in the future, Minister Sawit says Thailand has to increase its role in the free economic system. The existing investment measures must be improved to provide more support to the industrial sector. He says the government will encourage the industrial sector to enable Thai products to be more competitive in the world market.

The minister says in this region Thailand has more advantages than Indochinese countries as it has stronger economic system and marketing mechanism. He suggests that industrial development be accelerated by using part of raw materials from neighboring countries. At the same time, he says Thailand needs to promote skill development and technology for the maximum efficiency.

Government Says Fiscal Standing 'Relatively Good'

BK2610013993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Oct 93 p 23

[Text] The Government said yesterday that its position in the fiscal year ended on September 30, 1993, was relatively good as it recorded a cash surplus for the fifth consecutive year.

Consequently, the Government did not resort to borrowing to finance the 25,600-million-baht budget deficit that had been expected earlier.

The Finance Ministry said in its fiscal report to the economic ministers' meeting yesterday that if the economy continued to expand at the rate of 7.5-8 percent in the 1994 fiscal year, revenue collection was expected to exceed the target leading to another surplus.

Last fiscal year, the Government collected a net revenue of 558,997 million baht, 12.3 percent ahead of the previous year and 4.6 percent over the target.

Total expenditures for the year were 528,193 million baht, resulting in a surplus of 30,858 million baht.

Net treasury reserves at the end of the fiscal year totalled 57,125 million baht against 58,251 million baht at the end of the preceding fiscal year.

Organization Sells Rice to World Food Program

BK2310074093 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] The Public Warehouse Organization will sell 8,000 tons of 35 percent rice to the World Food Program. The decision was approved by the Rice Policy Committee. The volume of rice was purchased from agricultural cooperatives early this year by the organization. Director of the organization Chaiwat Phraiyasunan says the rice will be delivered to the World Food Program within 15 November this year. The headquarters of the program in Rome is also considering buying more rice from the organization.

The organization has participated in the government's program to buy rice from farmers to help solve falling price of second rice crop. It earlier exported 40,000 tons of rice to the Philippines. Sri Lanka also agreed to buy 30,000 tons of rice from the Public Warehouse Organization.

Vietnam

Spratlys Policy Reportedly To Occupy All Isles

BK2710051793 Hong Kong AFP in English 0108 GMT 27 Oct 93

[by Andrew Sherry]

[Text] HANOI, Oct 27 (AFP)—Vietnam, borrowing a strategy used against it by territorial rival China, has begun using economic means to quietly reinforce its sovereignty claims in the South China Sea.

In the past few months, Vietnam has constructed a lighthouse on one of the Spratly islands, announced that it was building a fishing port on another, and promised tax breaks for sea products ventures in the disputed archipelago. Though officially these steps are aimed solely to promote economic development in Vietnamese territory, political sources acknowledge that a concerted policy to quietly reinforce sovereignty lies behind them.

"We have a lot of islands, but up to now they haven't been occupied. We had sovereignty in principle but no

people. That left open the opportunity for them to be occupied by others," a political source said.

"Now our policy is to have a presence on all of them. Not a military presence—we don't want to shock the Chinese. Economic means are more subtle," he said.

The game is one Hanoi learned to play the hard way, by being burned when China made the first move. In May 1992, just six months after normalizing relations with Vietnam, China leased to a small U.S. oil company an offshore exploration block that Vietnam claimed was on its continental shelf, adjoining some of its most valuable concessions.

That move shattered any Vietnamese illusions that diplomatic normalization would end years of territorial feuding with China. Since then, China has twice sent oil exploration vessels into disputed waters of the Tonkin Gulf, drawing protests from Hanoi as recently as last month.

State-owned PetroVietnam, for its part, offered foreign companies this month a row of oil exploration blocks that abut Vietnam's central coast but extend into waters also claimed by China.

Despite the continued economic sparring, overall relations between China and Vietnam have shown signs of improvement since the visit to Hanoi of Chinese Premier Li Peng 11 months ago, diplomats here said. Last week, the two countries reaffirmed in writing the pledge they made when they normalized diplomatic relations in November 1991, not to resort to force or to do anything that would further complicate their disputes.

Diplomatic sources said the two countries also agreed during their talks here to form two committees, one to demarcate their land border and one to demarcate their maritime border in the Tonkin Gulf.

"The decision not to mix the Tonkin Gulf issue with the Spratlys is significant. It could allow them to move ahead quickly in delineating the Tonkin Gulf," a Western diplomat said.

Relations should get a further boost in November, when Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh is tentatively scheduled to visit Beijing. Anh's last visit, an unpublicized mission in July 1991 before he was president, produced the breakthrough that allowed the Cambodian peace treaty and the subsequent Sino-Vietnamese normalization.

China and Vietnam fought a bloody border war in 1979 when China attacked in response to Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia, which drove the Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge from power.

The two countries had a brief naval clash in 1988, when China moved into the Spratlys, a far-flung archipelago that straddles shipping lanes and possibly mineral wealth in the South China Sea. Vietnam currently has a presence on more than 20 of the Spratly islets compared with around eight for China and one—the biggest—for Taiwan. Malaysia, the Philippines and Brunei all claim parts of the archipelago.

China and Vietnam are both now consumed with building their economies, and neither can afford another military confrontation.

But diplomats here said that China had become less assertive in its economic sparring with Vietnam since the July 1992 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) ministerial conference, which expressed concerns that China was emerging as a regional bully. "It is in China's interest now to build good relations with Vietnam which has received strong support from the ASEAN countries," said a diplomat who has served in both Hanoi and Beijing.

Textile Firms Plan Cooperation With PRC Firms

BK2610133093 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Vietnamese and Chinese textile manufacturers are planning cooperation in production and marketing to help fight fake and low quality products being smuggled into Vietnam across the northern border.

The plan was discussed last week during the visit to Vietnam by the Chinese team representing companies and factories in Guangxi, Nanning, Hunan, and Zhejiang of China. The plan also includes cooperation in production with Vietnam textile company REPECTO [expansion unknown].

The Chinese companies will be responsible for materials, semi-finished products, and a small amount of finished products. The final products will bare the trademark of REPECTO.

Vo Van Kiet Visits Cao Bang, Yen Bai Provinces

BK2610111193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Summary From Poor Reception] During his one-day working tour of Cao Bang Province, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet heard "Comrade Phan Hong Hai, secretary of the provincial party committee, Comrade Nguyen Van Phuong, chairman of the provincial people's committee; and other leaders of the province report on the province's past socioeconomic development activities."

It is especially noted that grain production has improved rapidly, with grain output increasing year after year and that some 13,000 families of over 800,000 members have been resettled.

However, "Cao Bang Province has continued to face countless difficulties in its socioeconomic development. Its agricultural production remains precarious, as it is still dependent on natural elements. The province has failed to make full use of its existing water conservancy

projects. Its traditional crops, such as tobacco and soybeans, have not been developed toward being the strength of the province. It forest areas have become increasingly smaller and now account for only 16-17 percent of the province's total land area. Industrially, its production and market have yet to be stabilized, and there is a lack of capital for the renovation of its equipment and technology. Educationally, its academic quality continues to decline and the number of school dropouts are still large." The entire province now has two villages without any schools and 18 villages without any health stations.

"The prime minister profoundly analyzed and pointed out those issues to be given attention by Cao Bang such as agricultural and forestry production and cultural and social activities. The prime minister was especially keen on the silviculture and the carring out of settled-farming and settled-life for the multiethnic compatriots of Cao Bang." He said:

Despite the fact that Cao Bang's forests are diminissing, we cannot say that it has lost its value. We cannot help creating conditions to revive these forests and turn them into a great strength of Cao Bang. Not only are forests an inseparabale part of the ecological environment in Cao Bang, but they are also our country's very valuable source of capital. In the mountain region, we should strive to do away with hunger and poverty and link this task with silviculture. We should strive to tackle the state of hunger and poverty among the compatriots, especially among those nomadic people whose are now leading a miserable life. We should strive to unfailingly resolve the question of protecting our forest resource within two or three years from now. From this, I think that we, as an immediate task, should protect our forest resource, study all types of saplings, and prepare enough seeds to cover all our watelands and bare hills with greenery. We should concentrate all of our fund—which is previously reserved for carrying settled- farming and settled-life and silviculture, including the covering of wastland and bare hills with greenery—mainly on forest protection.

Dear friends: Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet left Cao Bang Province for Yen Bai Province on 24 October. After touring the Ngoi Lau bridge construction site and a ceramic insulator manufacturing factory in the province, "the prime minister heard Comrade Ta Huu Thanh, secretary of the provincial party committee; and Comrade Hoang Cong Dung, chairman of the provincial people's committee, report on the province's past socio-economic development."

Agriculturally, Yen Bai Province attained the planned targets for acreage, output, gross production volume three years in a row. "The province has exceeded the target for the period between now and 1995, which calls for achieving an annual gross production volume of over 160,000 metric tons and per-capita grain output of 250 kilos. Over the past three years, Yen Bai's forested area has increased by 11 percent. Its cinnamon production is flourishing, with a potential annual export output of 1,000 metric tons. The province's gross industrial output value is expected to rise to 78 billion dong this year. Its other exports have also showed some increase. It is expected that its exports will reach $5.6 million this year, thus increasing by 14 percent. Its budget revenue was reported to have increased with every passing year. It has jumped from 17 billion dong to the present level of 45 billion dong. Yen Bai has also actively motivated the local compatriots to refrain from poppy growing and opium-smoking."

Addressing his well-wishers in Yen Bai, "Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet expressed his joy over the fact that despite countless difficulties, the party organization and people of Yen Bai Province have achieved initial results in various domains. The prime minister urged the province's leaders to foresee its needs and determine an appropriate social structure for itself.

"Like in Cao Bang, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet was especially keen on silviculture and on the carrying out of settled-farming and settled-life for the compatriots in Yen Bai province. He said:

It can be said that forestry is a very tough question, both presently and in the long run. Therefore, in forestry, it is now a national policy to maintain our existing forestry resource. That is, we should strive to prevent the remaining forests from fire or destruction. The problem is how to end the bad practice of slash- and-burn crop cultivation. This problem is very tough. If we fail to do this, our efforts will become meaningless. Therefore, within a period of one, two, or three years from now, the province should strive to cover all of its wastland and bare hills with greenery. If there is a lack of funds, it should at least keep its existing forested area intact. We in Yen Bai Province should strive to prevent forest destruction. We can cover bare hills even with grass and keep them from being burned down. We should at least do something.

As for the question of carrying settled-farming and settled-life, after being resettled, people should not further destroy the forests, including mangroves. That is the first point. The second point is that we should know how many compatriots in what areas or in what villages are still leading a nomadic life. We should map out a plan to unfailingly resettle these compatriots so there will be no more poverty and forest destruction.

Doan Khue Attends Military Corps Anniversary

BK2510100193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] On 24 October, Quyet Thang [Determine to Win] Military Corps held a solemn function to mark its 20th anniversary.

Senior General Doan Khue, speaking on behalf of the Central Committee Military Commission and the Defense Ministry, praised the troops of Quyet Thang for their achievements. He stressed: The hostile forces still

persist in their plots and tricks against our revolution, continue their peaceful evolution strategy, and exhort violation and subversive activities aiming at toppling socialism in our country. Therefore, cadres and troops of the Quyet Thang Military Corps must heighten their revolutionary vigilance and build up the corps to be steadfast in all aspects: firm in political thought, excellent in training, and always ready for combat.

Leaders should also take good care of the physical as well as cultural needs of the troops, so as to be worthy of the title of heroic unit.

Delivers Speech 24 Oct

BK2610112593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 25 Oct 93

["Excerpt" from speech by Defense Minister General Doan Khue at a ceremony held by the Quyet Thang Military Corps on 24 October; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear comrades and friends: As we have already reported, at a solemn ceremony to mark the 20th founding anniversary of the Quyet Thang [Determined-to-Win] Military Corps, which is one of the first main force military corps of our army, Comrade General Doan Khue, member of the Political Bureau, deputy secretary of the party Central Committee Military Commission, and minister of national defense, delivered an important speech.

After pointing out the historic significance of the birth of the Quyet Thang Military Corps to our people's glorious revolutionary undertaking, Gen. Doan Khue emphatically said:

Throughout 20 years of building, development, combat, and victories under the party's leadership, cadres, combatants, and office and manual defense workers of all generations of the Quyet Thang Military Corps have constantly developed the revolutionary nature and glorious traditions of the heroic Vietnam People's Army [VPA]. You have done this by achieving unity and singlemindedness, fighting with bravery and strength, and surmounting towering difficulties and challenges to fulfill all work assignments in an outstanding manner. Thus, you have made worthy contributions to the cause of national liberation and reunification, and to the tasks of building and safeguarding the socialist Vietnamese fatherland and of fulfilling our noble internationalist duties. You have built and developed the lightning war and determined-to-win traditions of the corps. Whatever the circumstances, cadres and combatants of the corps have acted in line with the fine character of Uncle Ho's soldiers. The Quyet Thang Military Corps is truly worthy of the Heroic Unit of the People's Armed Forces title and of other noble awards presented by the party, state, and army.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to warmly commend the corps for its achievements over the past 20 years. On this occasion, on behalf of the party Central Committee Military Commission and the Ministry of National Defense, I sincerely thank all party committee echelons, administrative organs, and people in the various localities and departments and sectors inside and outside the army for their love and care for the corps, which have encouraged everyone to constantly develop their strength and score victories over the past 20 years.

Dear comrades: Our entire party, people, and army are making every effort to implement the seventh party congress resolution and the renovation line aimed at making the people rich and the nation powerful and at bringing about civilization in society. Over the past years, we have scored initial yet very important achievements. Our country now has great opportunities. However, many difficulties and challenges still lie ahead. The international and regional situations are undergoing fast-breaking changes which, though complicated and difficult in nature, are creating new opportunities for the Vietnamese Revolution. Hostile forces have not yet renounced their dark schemes aimed at undermining our country's revolutionary undertaking through the implementation of their peaceful evolution strategy and use of instigation, violence, and subversion to eliminate the socialist regime from our country.

Faced with the present situation and requirements and for the military corps to act as a mobile main force, firmly maintain and develop the traditions of a heroic unit, and prove itself worthy of the confidence and love of the party, people, and army, everyone should concentrate efforts on implementing the following tasks in a satisfactory manner:

1. Always uphold the spirit of revolutionary vigilance and help build comprehensively firm and powerful units, with first priority being given to efforts to build politically sound units and organizationally pure and firm party organizations that hold fast under all circumstances. Let cadres and combatants remain unquestionably loyal to the cause of socialist construction and the task of firmly defending the socialist Vietnamese fatherland.

2. Always firmly grasp the corps' key tasks, namely good quality training, readiness to fight and win, and good application of Vietnamese fighting methods based on currently available personnel organization and equipment. It is necessary to try by all means to constantly apply the basic knowledge, practicability, and solid results motto to all training activities. Practice should come first. It is important to uphold the spirit of self-reliance and self-sufficiency, adopt a positive attitude, display creativeness, and make use of our unique fighting methods to cope with the enemy who is equipped with more modern equipment and weapons.

3. It is imperative to build the corps into a model regular army- type military unit with a high sense of discipline. Constant efforts must be made to look after our soldiers' living and working conditions. Measures must be taken

to create a culturally fit environment for everyone. It is necessary to attach primary importance to the training of party cadres and members because this move plays a decisive role in unit-building work and development of a regular army-typed workstyle among members of the Armed Forces in accordance with the directive of the standing body of the party Central Committee Military Commission.

4. It is necessary to ensure good maintenance of equipment and weapons to meet short and long-term combat requirements. It is important to positively apply scientific and technological know-how to equipment and weapons maintenance to ensure effective use of weapons and equipment of all types.

5. Efforts are needed to build the people's confidence in the party, state, and army. It is necessary to achieve singlemindedness between the army and people and motivate everyone to contribute to the building and consolidation of the all-people national defense network and the people's war machinery. It is important to build firm and strong defense areas and step up the defense of targetted areas through the establishment of people's security networks to guarantee political stability and safeguard national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity for our country's border, sea, and island areas and airspace. Let us be determined to foil the strategy of peaceful evolution, instigation, violence, and subversion of the imperialist and hostile forces. Let us stand ready to defeat the enemy under all circumstances.

I am positive that endowed with its heroic traditions, the corps will oustandingly fulfill the tasks that the party and people have entrusted to it in the new revolutionary stage and will prove itself forever worthy of the Heroic Quyet Thang Military Corps of the Heroic Vietnam's People Army title.

Australia

Government To Press Japan on Trade at Nov Meeting

BK2610093693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0925 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Sydney, Oct 26 (AFP)—Australia will press Japan to aid global trade liberalisation and break down its barriers to food imports during cabinet level talks in Tokyo in November, the department of foreign affairs said Tuesday. The Sydney government was concerned to see "a break down in residual Japanese barriers to imports of foodstuffs and a balanced flow of Japanese investment into Australia," a departmental statement said. Other aspects of the bilateral economic relationship to be covered include Australia's desire to increase exports to Japan of its manufactured items and services, the statement said.

Foreign minister Gareth Evans said the Australia-Japan Ministerial Committee (AJMC) on November 2 will discuss political and security issues, regional economic integration and trade liberalisation through the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation process.

"We will also be pressing Japan strongly to lend its considerable weight to a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round (of trade talks under the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade) by the 15 December deadline," Evans said.

Australian ministers will also meet Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa outside [word indistinct] formal committee discussions, he added.

Japan will be represented by foreign minister Tsutomu Hata, finance minister Hirohisa Fujii, international trade and industry minister Hiroshi Kumagai, economic planning agency director General Manae Kubota and parliamentary vice minister for agriculture, forestry and fisheries, Morio Kimura, the statement said. In addition to Evans, Australia will send finance minister Ralph Willis, trade minister Peter Cook, primary industry and energy minister Simon Crean, industry, technology and regional development minister Alan Griffiths and assistant treasurer George Gear.

Crews of Illegal Indonesian Boats Questioned

BK2310114693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1100 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Custom and fishery investigators are questioning the crews of two Indonesian fishing vessels allegedly caught fishing illegally in the Torres Strait between Australia and Papua New Guinea. The two boats were escorted to Thursday Island by an Australian Navy patrol boat. A Customs Department official, Jeff Eastern, said it could be several days before a decision was taken on whether to lay charges against the crew members.

Cook Islands

Parliament Rules on Political Cartoon

BK2610092893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0841 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Rarotonga, Oct 25 (AFP)—A cartoon published by the daily COOK ISLANDS NEWS was ruled to have been in contempt of parliament and the cartoonist, editor and publishers were ordered to apologize to the assembly. PACIFIC ISLANDS NEWS ASSOCIATION (PINA) president Monica Miller said parliament's decision Monday would have "chilling repercussions" for free speech in the Cooks.

The October 5 cartoon was a reaction to an earlier ruling by parliament's powerful privileges committee that Opposition MP Norman George be suspended from the house for five days after he called Speaker Taututi Taringa "disgusting".

The NEWS cartoon showed a hand bearing the title "Parliament" holding a gun which passes behind George to rest against the head of a woman called "Freedom of Speech".

After over 13 hours of hearings, Prime Minister Sir Geoffrey Henry Monday presented the committee's ruling and recommendations to Parliament which accepted them. Henry said the committee found the cartoon had the meaning of parliament threatening the freedom of speech of the citizens of the Cook Islands. The two opposition members of the eight-member committee did not agree that the cartoon breached privilege and said it had not gone beyond the bounds of legitimate criticism.

The committee found the main responsibility for publication rested on editor Alex Sword.

The committee recommendations, which parliament accepted, required that apologies from Sword, cartoonist Jason Brown and directors Phil and Wendy Evans and Lawrence Bailey be accepted and read in parliament. The newspaper must publish the apology on their front page for two weekday editions.

Parliament also wants the apology sent to Cook Islands Television, Radio Cook Islands and Radio New Zealand, all of whom broadcast reports on the cartoon.

Miller, speaking from Pago Pago, American Samoa, expressed astonishment at the ruling. "It will have chilling repercussions for free speech in the Cook Islands," she said." In democratic countries, a political cartoon such as the one in question, was regarded as fair comment on a matter of public interest. She said she hoped good sense would prevail and the parliamentarians involved would realise how "astonishingly thin-skinned they risk appearing to be".